

Note: This PDF document is an abbreviated version of the class website.  
For more complete information about the class, go to:  
<http://mrcgeoastro.com/astro15/index.html>

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# Astronomy 15L

Section 1 (Mon. 1:30 - 4:20pm, room S-15)

## Welcome to Astronomy 15L!

### Do you need to fulfill a General-Ed Science requirement?

De Anza's Astronomy 15L class fulfills the physical science LAB requirement from the [CSUGE](#) and [IGETC](#) lists.

To take this class, you should be enrolled in either Astronomy 4 or Astronomy 10. (You can also take it if you've [already](#) successfully completed either of those classes.)

Most students who take Astronomy 15L are non-science majors working through their science requirements before transferring or getting a De Anza Associate degree. I'm excited about sharing the adventure of astronomy with you!



### For Current Students:

Make sure to familiarize yourself with the links in the navigation bar (at the top of the page). There you'll find all the information you'll need to 'navigate' your way through the quarter. It's a good idea to check the [Labs](#) page each weekend, so you're ready for Monday's lab.

You can also check the [Calendar](#) page, and you can use the Calendar's 'week' and 'month' buttons to see what's coming up.

Before each lab you'll have to download and print out the lab exercise, and you may have some reading to do. The links you'll need are on the [Labs](#) page.

**Textbooks:** This class doesn't have a specific textbook. If you're co-enrolled in Astronomy 4 or 10, you may find it useful to read certain pages from your textbooks.

(As a reminder, the Astro 4 book is [The Solar System, 9th edition](#), by Seeds and Backman. The bookstore probably has used copies, and it may be available as part of their [textbook rental program](#). The publisher also has it available as a rental and an ebook. For Astro 10, the textbook is [Stars and Galaxies, 9th edition](#), also by Seeds and Backman. Again, the bookstore may have used and/or rental copies, and the publisher has it available as a rental and an ebook.)

### Class Schedule:

Mondays, 1:30 - 4:20pm, room S-15

### Instructor:

Marek Cichanski

Office: S15a

Office Hours: M through F 9:30 - 10:30 am, plus other times by appointment.

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Dr. C's other internet content: [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#), [Flickr](#), [Blogspot](#), [Delicious](#)

# Astronomy 15L Rules and Procedures

## ATTENDANCE:

Starting on the first day, I'll use a sign-in chart to learn peoples' names, and to take attendance. Remember (from the grading policy) that the lowest two labs get dropped. If you have to miss a lab, that will be one of the labs that gets dropped. If you miss more than three labs, you are at risk of getting dropped from the class.

## COMPUTER USAGE AND CHECK-OUT:

Most of our lab work will involve computer software. You can use your own computer if you want, but make sure your computer(s) and/or phone(s) / tablet(s) can run Flash animations. The lab has a set of MacBook computers; if you want to use one, you'll need to temporarily give your instructor a photo I.D.. You'll get your I.D. back when you turn the computer back in at the end of class.

## COLLABORATION AND QUESTIONS DURING LAB SESSIONS:

During the lab exercises, you can ask your instructor and/or your fellow students questions about the **concepts** and **methods** involved in the lab exercise. Collaboration can really help you figure out what's going on and how to do what you've been asked to do!

However, you can't ask other students "What'd you get?", and you can't ask your instructor "Is this the right answer?", since you'll be turning in the lab for grading. I'll let you know if you're on the right track.

## DROPPING THE CLASS:

I would like to see everyone complete the course, earn a good grade, and become excited about science. However, the realities of life sometimes get in the way. You should assess your situation realistically throughout the quarter. If you decide to drop the class, you must do so by the final date to drop with a "w", or you will receive an "F".

Let me re-emphasize that: If you decide to drop the course, it is *your* responsibility to go to the registrar and drop yourself. The deadline is the end of the eighth week.

## VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DROPPING AND THE END OF THE QUARTER:

For many years, De Anza students have been given the impression that "your instructor can drop you" after the end of the 8th week. **THIS IS CHANGING!** We are no longer allowed to give a "W" on the final grade form. Additionally, I will NOT be able to drop you using a blue 'Addendum to Class List' form after the end of the 8th week. If you have a personal hardship after the end of the 8th week, you will have to request a "Late Drop" using a white form called "Petition for Exception to Registration Policies", which will be evaluated by the Registrar and/or the Academic Council.

## FINAL EXAM:

After you start working on the exam, you must hand it in before leaving the room.

If you arrive late for the exam, you won't be given extra time to finish it.

Once the first person has turned it in and left the room, no further latecomers will be given tests.

If you find yourself wanting to use a calculator on a test (such as to solve an extra-credit question that involves a numerical calculation), you'll need to use a regular calculator; you can't use a cell-phone calculator.

## NOTICE:

Cheating on any lab or exam is grounds for a failing grade in the class and a permanent note in a student's file.

"Cheating" is defined (in this course) to be an effort by a student to obtain a grade by any means other than demonstration of that student's individual achievement in mastering the class material and/or fulfilling terms of a project.

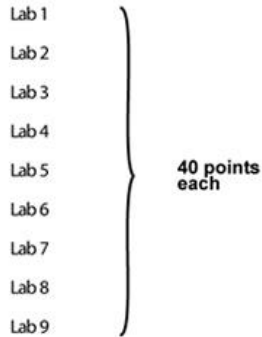
Further grounds for expulsion from the class include any activity which interferes with others' ability to benefit from the class (such as chronic distracting behavior) or which degrades the lab room's function or environment.

# Astronomy 15L

## GRADES

### step 1:

You do the labs and take the final



### step 2:

I drop the lowest 2 labs

-80pts = 280 points of labs

### step 3:

I calculate the final grade.

Your final percentage =

The points you earned, after dropping lowest scores as described at left

360 possible points

I then round your final percentage to the nearest whole percent, and use the following grading scale:

Notes:

1) A %-age like 88.7 rounds to an 89, so it's an A.

89-100	A
79-88	B
68-78	C
57-67	D
<57	F

FINAL EXAM 80 points

*There's no way I'm gonna drop **this** one...*

The two lowest labs will be dropped. If you miss a lab, it will be one of the labs that gets dropped.

Labs will be graded on completeness and accuracy.

I'm afraid that my schedule won't allow me to give you a final at a different time in order to fit your vacation. You'll need to plan around the final.

NOTE: Since the deadline to add classes is the end of the second week of class, it occasionally happens that a student adds the class after the first (or first two) lab(s). In such a case, the total points possible will be adjusted to reflect the number of labs that occur after they enroll.

If they add after Lab 1, the lowest two labs will be dropped, as noted above. If they add after Labs 1 and 2, then only the lowest one lab will be dropped.

**Student Learning Outcome(s):**

\*Evaluate claims about the nature of the physical universe using the scientific method of hypothesis testing.

\*Compare and contrast the histories of solar-system bodies (e.g. moons, planets, asteroids, comets, meteorites) by integrating data from spacecraft and Earth-based observatories.