Astronomy 100 Fall 2008

Astronomy poster project

A poster is a visually-oriented stand-alone presentation of a topic related to space exploration or to a non-Roman/Greek traditional astronomy.

As a visual presentation, posters follow the same rules as ads:

- The **title** (and the **name**(s) of the author(s)) are prominently displayed. The title is usually less than fifteen words long. Make the letters in your title at least two-thirds of an inch tall, or better yet, typeset them at 48-point or greater type.

- The **graphical elements** (e.g., photographs, drawings, graphs) do not overwhelm the reader. Avoid having too many (more than ten) or too few (less than three) graphical elements. Arrange them so that there is graphic around which the other graphics are placed (if one is much bigger).

- The **text** of the poster should contain at least 350 words. Don't do a word count, but be sure that you have both **captions** for the graphical elements and **body text** to tie what the graphics show into the larger idea. **Word process** this; *don't* handwrite it. Use at least 12-point type (this size) for the captions and at least 16-point type for the body text. Hints: Do not paste 8.5 by 11 inch sheets of paper covered in text on the posterboard. If you use the exact wording of a source, place that wording in quotes; **don't plagarize**!

In addition, I require two more elements:

- The **bibliography** of your sources must be shown in one of the bottom corners of your poster. Use standard research paper format for the bibliographic entries (for instance, they should all start off with an author's name) whether the source is a book, magazine or journal article, internet website or an interview. Ask me if you are unclear about the format. You must have at least **three** other sources than a textbook; at least **two** must be a book, or magazine or journal article. Please do not **plagiarize**; this includes lifting whole paragraphs off the Internet (even if you reference the paragraph)!

- At least **one** of the graphical elements (photograph, drawing or map) must be created (i.e., **photographed**, **drafted** or **drawn**) by you (or your partner). This graphical element cannot simply be a background illustration; whatever it is, it must have an explanatory **caption**.

The poster session will be held on **Thursday, November 20**, promptly at 11 a.m. Standard late penalties apply. As you enter the room, there will be a sign directing you to set up at a particular booth (they will be numbered). You will also get two "**poster evaluation**" forms. You will peer-review two other posters, according to the directions on the form; you will turn in these forms. In order to avoid chaos, there

will be a schedule of when you will be reviewing and when you will be standing by your poster being reviewed.

Your grade will be a combination of your poster and the poster evaluation forms you turn in. In addition, you will write a **poster abstract** (details on later handout), which will be due Thursday, November 13.

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Ideas for Projects:

The following is a list of ideas to get you started thinking about your projects. The basic rule is that the poster must concern some aspect of human exploration of the solar system or beyond ***or*** some aspect of archeo-astronomy (in other words, astronomy practiced by a non-Roman/Greek civilization). The following list contains some ideas for topics; your project does not have to come from this list but in ***any*** case please talk to me ***before*** you start work. Also, please avoid generic topics like "Stars" or "Galaxies!" I *encourage* you to work with a partner on this, though working individually is okay.

- The race for space after Sputnik
- New Horizons
- The post-Galileo exploration of Europa
- The furthest shores: the Hubble Telescope and the Deep Field Cameras
- The upcoming Webb Space Telescope and its capabilities
- SETI: The search for extraterrestrial intelligence continues on your computer
- Molecular clouds and the largest pool of ethanol ever
- Extrasolar planets: what are the limits of our seeing?
- The Local Bubble and why we seem to be lonely out here
- Jocelyn Bell, Antony Hewish and the scandal behind pulsar discovery
- Vedic astrology
- Mayan astronomy and the Long Cycle
- Caliph Al-Mansur and Arabic astronomy
- Zhang Heng's *Ling Xian* and Ptolemy's *Almagest*