

ASTR-1200-02: Stars & Galaxies (Fall 2025) Guidelines for Observing/Lecture Assignment

In the syllabus, you've seen that 5% of your grade comes from attending an astronomy-related event outside of class and reporting back on what you learned.

This event can EITHER be a **public science lecture** OR one of our scheduled **evening observing sessions** at the Sommers-Bausch Observatory (SBO) on campus. Your choice!

Your reports are due **no later than 2 weeks after the event that you attend**, and the final date to submit any of these is Monday, Dec. 1 (the last Monday of regular classes). Please submit these reports on Canvas.

Guidelines for Public Science Lecture Report:

- We will have a list of upcoming public lectures on Canvas for you to choose from, and many of them will be announced in class. However, we may miss some, so please feel free to take a look at posted show schedules for “Live Faculty Talks” or “Science Under the Dome” at [Fiske Planetarium](#). (These must be talks where someone is presenting “live,” so it cannot be a concert or fulldome film.) Also, there are always quite a few interesting scientific talks on campus every week of the semester. The APS Department hosts a weekly Colloquium most Mondays at 3:30 pm in the JILA Auditorium. You can browse the lists of upcoming talks at <https://www.colorado.edu/aps/events>
- Attend the talk and try to write down your initial impressions and thoughts immediately afterwards.
- Write up a report that summarizes your impressions about the talk, using your own words (i.e., using concepts that *you* understand). Please see our syllabus for guidelines about using AI responsibly.
- Your report ought to have a length of about 750 words (i.e., 3 to 4 paragraphs, or about 1.5 to 2 pages single-spaced) in length, and it should discuss: a summary of what was presented, why the speaker considers it important, its relation to topics covered in our class, and your honest reactions to both the content and the overall presentation style.
- There's no need to cite external sources in this paper, but please write professionally. For more information on writing essays for college courses, see:
 - ⇒ CU Boulder Writing Center: <https://www.colorado.edu/program/writingcenter/>
 - ⇒ A nice guide that I found a few years ago and posted on my site:
https://stevencranmer.bitbucket.io/ASTR_1200_2019/edinburgh_writing_guide.pdf

Guidelines for SBO Observing Report:

- We will be allotted 5 observing nights throughout the semester. As of mid-August, these dates are:
 - Monday, **September 15**, 8:00 to 10:00 pm
 - Tuesday, **September 23**, 8:00 to 10:00 pm
 - Wednesday, **October 15**, 7:30 to 9:30 pm
 - Wednesday, **October 29**, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
 - Thursday, **November 13**, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Be aware that observing depends on the weather, so some sessions may be cancelled. We'll do our best to announce them in class and to give an estimate of whether the weather will be good or bad.

- Print out several copies of the attached sheets to bring with you. You'll only need to observe and report on THREE objects, but it's good to have extra sheets on-hand.

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- The [Sommers-Bausch Observatory \(SBO\)](#) is located behind Fiske Planetarium, south-east of C4C. It is close to the corner of Regent Drive and Kittredge Loop Drive.
- Arrive at SBO on the observing night by the start-time (which gets earlier as the nights get longer), and sign in.
- At the observatory, fill out a half-page report for three objects that you observe through the telescopes (including date, time, initial impressions, and a drawing of what you see).
- At home, use the textbook or the web to find out more about the objects you saw. In a separate document:
 - ▷ Write a paragraph (for each object) explaining what the object is, and why astronomers care about such objects.
 - ▷ ALSO, choose one object that you observed, and write another paragraph that describes how it is represented in some aspect of our/your/any culture (book, song, TV, movie, art, anime, etc.)
- Be sure to cite any references that you used, and note that reports that simply repeat material from the web or textbook will be penalized.
- Combine scans of your observing sheets and your written report into a single PDF and upload to Canvas.

ASTR-1200-02: Stars & Galaxies (Fall 2025) Telescope Observing Report

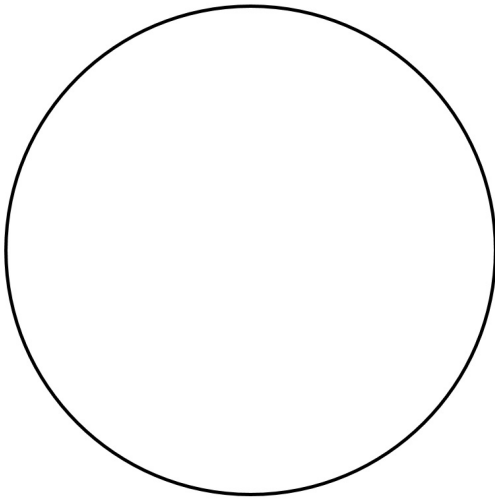
Name _____ **Student #** _____

OBJECT NAME:

Brief description of the observation:

DATE & TIME:

SKY CONDITION:



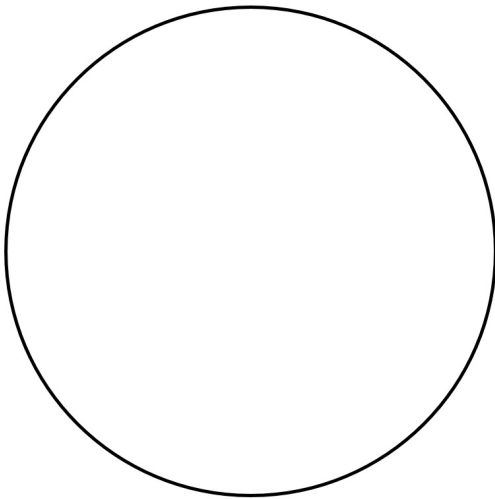
Draw view through telescope

OBJECT NAME:

Brief description of the observation:

DATE & TIME:

SKY CONDITION:



Draw view through telescope

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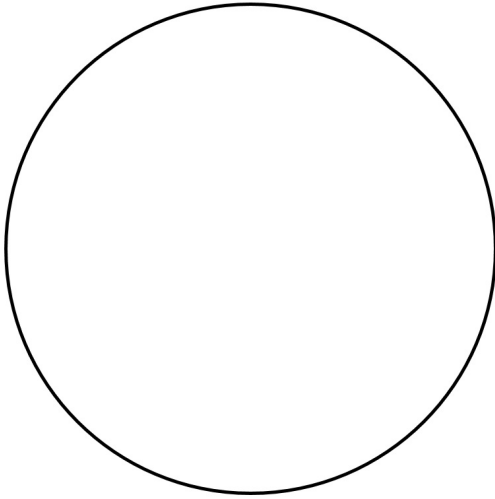
Name _____ **Student #** _____

OBJECT NAME:

Brief description of the observation:

DATE & TIME:

SKY CONDITION:



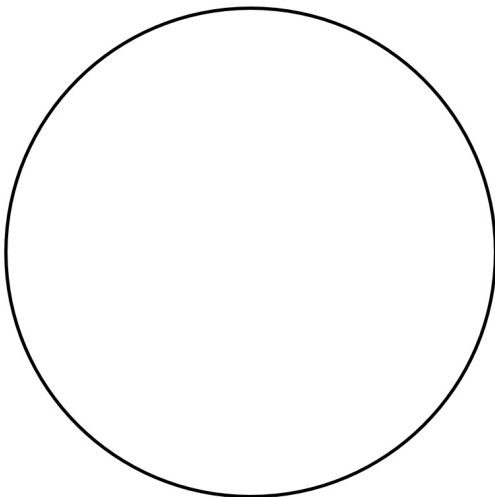
Draw view through telescope

OBJECT NAME:

Brief description of the observation:

DATE & TIME:

SKY CONDITION:



Draw view through telescope

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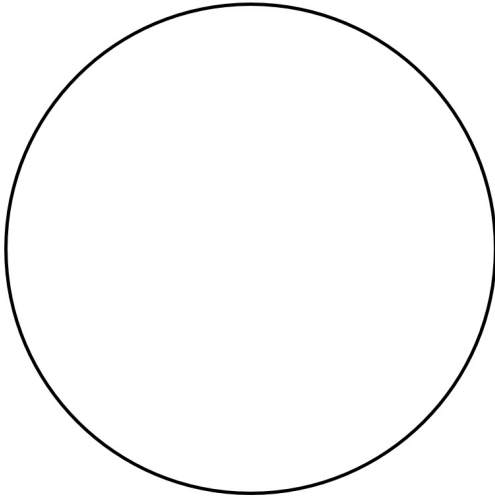
Name _____ **Student #** _____

OBJECT NAME:

Brief description of the observation:

DATE & TIME:

SKY CONDITION:



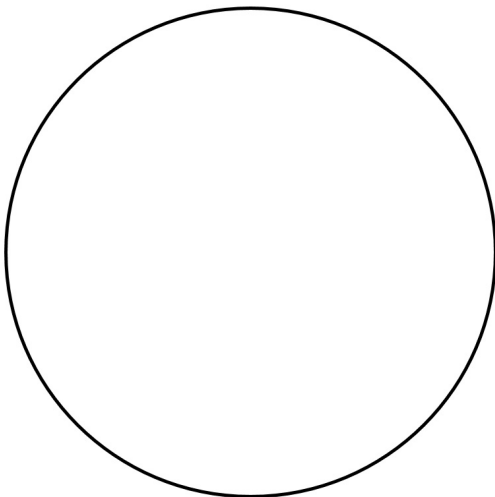
Draw view through telescope

OBJECT NAME:

Brief description of the observation:

DATE & TIME:

SKY CONDITION:



Draw view through telescope