

**GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER (25% OF GRADE IF SELECTED)
(PAPER DUE December 8th; RETURN THIS FORM BY October 27th)**

Name: _____

Topic: _____

Count: **MIDTERM** **PAPER** **FINAL EXAM** for my grade (circle two).

**Research paper will be 10-15 pages double-spaced, typed.
Submit hard copy to J. Stocke; Submit electronic copy to TA.**

The electronic copy will be used to check that you have not plagiarized your paper (i.e. used someone else's work as your own). If we determine that you have plagiarized your paper, this will result in an "F" on this paper and, possibly an "F" for the class. ***You are warned!!***

***Acceptable formats for electronic submission are (only these): text, rtf, word, pdf, and postscript.

We will accept books and articles as references and no more than two internet sites as references. The internet can be used for finding references, but is not always reliable as referenced information.

A minimum of two books and/or journal articles, in addition to your textbook **are required for this research paper**. If you wish you may add internet sites for references **in addition to the book/journal references**. In your bibliography, you will need to provide the COMPLETE URL address for any internet sites that you use, so that I can locate and read the exact site that you used. Papers which rely primarily or exclusively on internet references will receive low marks.

Criteria used in grading research papers:

1. Content complete and correct; well-researched and documented.
2. Presentation well-organized, clear and easy to understand.
3. Exposition without significant flaws; good grammar and correct spelling.
4. Good introduction and conclusion summarizing the topic.
5. Relevant to the course material; appropriate length and depth.
6. Good creativity in approach, exposition and/or conclusions. Did I learn something from your paper?

It is **highly recommended** that you consult with your instructor about your topic prior to starting your research. This is to make sure that the topic is neither too broad nor too narrow (e.g., has too little or no reference material available).

I truly hope that this research paper will prove a valuable part of this class for you.

CLASS SPECIFIC POLICIES:

“The policy of the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences is to ban any use of electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops) in class except as an approved accommodation granted by Disability Services, or as explicitly authorized by the instructor.”

Use of computers for non-class purposes (e.g., web “surfing”) is NOT ALLOWED. These activities are both impediments to individual learning and also are distractions to other students in the class. If you wish to use a laptop in class for class purposes (note taking etc) clear that use with the instructor first.

*** Students who routinely make use of cell-phones or computers for non-class purposes will be asked to leave the lecture hall or planetarium. At Fiske the illumination from cell-phones can also be highly distracting both due to dark adaption and to reflections onto the planetarium dome.***

MIDTERM/FINAL/RESEARCH PAPER options

As stated in the syllabus all student grades will be determined using only two of the above three requirements. This option is provided to lighten student workload, NOT to provide additional opportunities to score more points. With this in-mind, the normal process involves all or most students taking the midterm exam and then deciding which two of the three options to select.

For example, if the student is happy with their midterm exam grade, they can choose to have it count for their course grade. In this case the student gets to choose whether to take the final exam OR to write a research paper (NOT BOTH!) for their course grade.

>> If the student is not content with their midterm grade, they can choose to discard that grade and then are required to take the final exam AND write the research paper for their course grade.

>>If a student does not take the midterm exam for personal or health reasons, then they will be required to take the final exam AND write the research paper. **No makeup exams are given.**

Decisions are made well PRIOR to the final exam, typically a week or two after the midterm exam grades are made available. This allows the student ample time to select a research paper topic and do the research for the required paper if this is the option they choose. In NO CASE will a student’s final grade be determined by the highest two of these three grades. If a student fails to make their decision on this option known to us, a decision will be made for them, which will be communicated to them one week prior to the final exam.

HOMEWORK AND OBSERVING PROJECTS

Late submission of written work will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day or for a maximum of 35% if more than 3 days late. This also applies to both the hard copy and e-copy of the research paper.

Electronic submission of home works and observing projects will be penalized by 20% even if on-time; i.e., hard copy submissions are required and we will not print out material for you.

While some collaboration is helpful on homework and observing projects (see individual projects for details), the written answers to questions on both the home works and the observing projects must be the work of the individual student; i.e., copying of homework and observing project answers is NOT PERMITTED (see CU Honor Code).

GENERAL CU POLICIES:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please inform me in advance of conflicts between any exams or assignments and a religious observance in which you routinely engage. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at: <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>