Astronomy S-110 Planets & Stars
2:00-3:45 MTWTh

Instructor: Robert Zinn
Office: Room 101, 46 Hillhouse Avenue
Phone: 432-3017
Email: robert.zinn@yale.edu

Roger A. Freedman
Robert Geller
William J. Kaufmann III
Publisher: W. H. Freeman

Week 1: The motions of the planets
Kepler’s Laws, Newton’s laws and theory of gravitation
The Nature of Light and Matter
Optics & Telescopes
Reading: Chapters 1, 4, 5, & 6

Week 2: Comparative Planetology & Exoplanets
Reading: Chapters 7 & 8

Week 3: More on Exoplanets & Our Star, the Sun
Mid-term Exam: Thursday, July 18
Reading: Handouts + Chapter 16

Week 4: The Nature of Stars
The Birth of Stars
Stellar Evolution
The Death of Stars
Reading: Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20

Week 5: The Death of Stars, Neutron Stars, and Black Holes
Final Exam: Thursday, August 1. Every student is expected to take the Exam on this date.
Reading: Chapters 20 & 21
Weather permitting there will be an evening class at the on-campus observatory and planetarium.

Grading:  
33% Mid-term  
33% Final  
34% Homework

There will be approximately 8 homework assignments.

Homework Policy

1. To receive any credit for a homework problem, you must show how you arrived at your answer (the answers to some problems are given at the back of the textbook).

2. You may ask other students for help with the homework, but the work you hand in must be your own. (NO copying).

3. Late homework will be marked down 10 points for each class period that it is late. Homework later than two class periods will not be graded, and a zero will be recorded.

4. Homework will not be marked down if you are ill or have an emergency. Please notify me as soon as possible.