

Physics 131: Survey of the Universe
Spring 2003-2004
Prof. Michael S. Vogeley
Class Presentation Guidelines

As advertized in the syllabus, approximately 10 groups of approximately 5 persons each will give presentations to the class during the last 3 weeks of the quarter. Following are your instructions for these group presentations.

Form a Group

If you wish to form a group with friends/acquaintances of yours, you must turn in a list of the group members **no later than the end of class on Tuesday, April 27** (in other words, you have one week). You do not need to have a "full" group to submit such a list - you and one friend could put your names together and I'll fill in the rest. See the attached handout that lists all your classmates and includes their pictures.

I will form the completed groups by simply grouping the class alphabetically, beginning by filling in any empty slots in requested groups. **I will hand out the list of groups on Tuesday, May 4 at the end of the midterm exam.**

You may trade groups with someone (with their consent!) but you must tell me that you've done so.

Research Your Topic

I will assign your group a topic. These topics will be selected from the "Discovery" sections of the textbook, which gives you a headstart on learning about the subject. You should then read further in the textbook, in the library, and on the internet to learn more. Everyone in the group should do this!

The first presentation will be on May 18, thus you have at least two weeks to prepare. This is more than enough time to prepare a 15 minute presentation, provided that you start immediately.

Prepare Your Presentation

Your group should meet several times to organize your presentation. Use the attached list to get the email addresses and recognize the faces of your team members. It is your responsibility to cooperate with one another on planning to meet.

Start by writing an outline of the important facts and ideas that you need to present. Then find a few interesting visual aids (pictures, graphs, etc.) that help illustrate these points. Try to be quantitative; give examples that demonstrate the important astrophysics.

Your group gets to decide who and how you will present. You can divide your presentation into parts, elect one or two members to give the presentation, or design an interactive presentation that involves all of you at once.

If you want to do a practice presentation, make an appointment during office hours or some other time.

Document Your Sources

Before, or immediately after, your presentation, your group must hand in a typewritten list of all sources used in your presentation, including books, magazines, websites, etc. This is the only written requirement for the presentation.

Guidelines for the Presentation

Plan to give a 15 minute presentation to the class. This should include a few (more than 2, less than 20!) visual aids, which may be transparencies and/or powerpoint (using your own laptop). You may, of course, also use the chalkboard. Creative presentations are strongly encouraged (dance of the planets?). The goal is to give a presentation that is interesting and informative. Remember, you are teaching your classmates, not the instructor, so think about what you need to say/show so that they will understand the new material that you are presenting.

After your 15 minute presentation, there will be a few minutes for the class and instructor to ask questions. Everyone in the group should help to answer these questions, even if they did not actually give the presentation.

Dates of Presentations

I will assign your group a date on which you will give your presentation. The dates will be May 18, 20, 25, 27, and June 1. **If you know that you will be unable to attend class on one of those days, you must tell me immediately and provide a valid reason, so that I do not schedule your group to present that day. I will not rearrange the schedule once it is set.**

Evaluation

The presentation counts as 15% of your grade. The same grade will be assigned to everyone in the group. This grade will be based on the following elements of your presentation:

- accuracy of content
- clarity of the presentation
- creativity
- how well you answer questions from the class and instructor