Astronomy 45. Introduction to Astrophysics

READING PERIOD ASSIGNMENT

Due: Friday, May 17, 3:00 p.m. at Daniel Eisenstein' office: Observatory, 60 Garden Street, room P-224. It is YOUR responsibility to get your work to this location by this time.

The assignment is to prepare 5 or more pages of Astronomy 45 lecture notes in the style of the notes handed out, but on a topic *different* from those already covered in the notes. Five pages is sufficient; use more pages only if you need them to finish up your chosen topic.

Your notes should be exactly as if you were going to give a class lecture based on them. (Don't worry, you won't have to do this!) You should include a mix of discussion and derivations (equations).

Your subject can be either something completely different from those covered in the course, or else it can be to take something in the course and go into (slightly) greater depth.

So, where do you find a subject? Best is simply to look in Shu's The Physical Universe (the course textbook). Most of the 20 chapters in Shu have sections that could easily serve as subjects. Browse around and use your judgement.

Clearly, you will *not* be doing a good job if you just paraphrase Shu without understanding and re-expressing it. To ensure that there is some original content in your work, you might want (though this is not required) to base your section on *problems* in Shu, with your notes providing the solutions.

In any case, please include at the end of your notes the exact page numbers (in Shu or elsewhere) on which your discussion is based. A formal bibliography is not required.

This assignment will be graded only impressionistically (e.g., the "plus", "check", "minus" system), but it will nevertheless be folded into your final grade with a modest weight.

Good luck!