Astronomy 280: Evolution of the Universe

Instructor: Brent Tully
Classes: Watanabe 114, T-Th 1:30-2:45
Office hours: Watanabe 423 following classes
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Graduate students serving as TA’s will be available for consultation on a drop-in basis in Watanabe 421 (Study Center & Library). TA’s and hours will be announced.

Evidence has accumulated that the universe began about 14 billion years ago as a hot, dense ‘Big Bang’. This course will explore current ideas about that event and about how the universe has transformed since that initial time. The course will not have an official text. A good reference is Galaxies and Cosmology by M H Jones and R J A Lambourne, Cambridge University Press.

Grades: Final exam (30%) Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015 12:00 – 2:00 pm, Wat 114
Two midterms (each 20%)
Five homework assignments (each 5%)
(expect ~ 6 homework assignments but only top 5 count in grade)
Three or four class presentations (5% total)

Key dates:
Last date to DROP: Aug 31
Last date to WITHDRAW: Oct 23

Tentative Lecture Plan
1 Aug 25 T … Introduction, historical
2 27 R … Basic concepts
3 Sep 1 T … Big Bang overview
4 3 R … Stars – birth
5 8 T … Stars –lives
6 10 R … Solar systems
7 15 T … Galaxies today
8 17 R … Monsters
9 22 T … Distances
10 24 R … Large Scale structure
11 29 T … 1st MIDTERM