This document contains information and policies about Astro 16 for fall 2015. If you have a question about something that’s not addressed here, please get in touch.

**Grades, homework, labs, exams, etc.:** We will have two midterms, with the first being before fall break and the second coming in mid-November. At least one of these might be on a Wednesday night, during the time slot we have reserved for labs.

Weekly homework problem sets will count for a substantial fraction of your overall grade. Doing these homework problems thoroughly is a key to doing well in the class. And because you are always welcome to get help from me and from the SAs, there’s really no reason to not get close to a perfect score on every homework assignment.

We will also have lab write-ups for most if not all of our roughly four labs throughout the semester. You will hand these in to our lab instructor, Prof. Kate Daniel.

You will frequently be asked to solve a small problem prior to class or in class (which I may or may not collect). These will be graded for effort only.

**Final grade breakdown:** Your overall course grade will be based on the following breakdown:

Homework = 35%; Midterms = 25%; Labs and class participation = 15%; Final exam = 25%

Note that homework contributes more than a third of your final grade. This is really a place where you should accumulate points toward your final grade.

**Late homework and missed work policy:**

Labs, exams, and other out-of-class activities which are missed without prior permission cannot be made up. You will get a zero if this happens. If you’ve got a conflict, scheduling problem, family emergency, etc., get in touch with me ahead of time and we’ll make an arrangement.

I will not give extensions for homework. If homework is handed in after the specified time it will count as late.

I will accept late homework assignments, no questions asked and no excuses given, within 24 hours of the due date, but you will be docked 20% of the total number of points for that assignment. Anything later than one day will also be accepted, but it will only be checked for completeness and given a flat 50%.

**Academic honesty:** I strongly encourage you to work together with your classmates on assignments. But, the work you hand in must be your own. I take academic honesty very seriously – my main guideline to avoid crossing the line is: Talk/work with your classmates to figure out how to solve a problem, but then write up your own solution without looking at your classmate’s write-up.

**Accommodation:** If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, she will issue students with documented disabilities a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact her as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, visit the Student Disability Service Website at http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service.

You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services.