Astro 16 – Astrophysics: Stars, ISM, and Galaxies
Fall 2018
Prof. David Cohen

final exam guidelines

We'll have our final exam on Thursday, December 20, in the seminar room.

The format will be the same as the second midterm (but you may have to do a few more involved calculations, because you'll have more time). You will bring a page of your own, hand-written notes, and I will supply the tables in the Appendix, but otherwise it will be a closed-book exam.

You can use your sheet of notes from the second midterm (and add more notes in the blank spaces) or start from scratch.

The subject coverage will be everything from the semester. Questions about material from the last few weeks (galaxies, compact objects) will likely involve concepts from earlier in the semester (star colors and eclipsing binary light curves, for example). Topics that we spent time on in class are most likely to be in the exam. New things will show up on the exam only as a new context in which you can apply information and ideas you've seen before.

Knowing how to do the problems from the homework assignments throughout the semester and the midterms, and being able to interpret images and graphical information, will be helpful to you for the final.

The most important topics, most of which will surely appear on the final, include:

HR diagram and stellar evolution
stellar structure with a focus on HSEQ and energy generation
orbits and binary stars
measuring the properties of stars
properties of the interstellar medium
spiral vs. elliptical galaxies
measuring the expansion rate of the universe