

Welcome to Astronomy 115

<http://sdbv.missouristate.edu/mreed/CLASS/A115>

“It would seem that you have no useful skill or talent whatsoever, he said. Have you thought of going into teaching?”
Mort, by Terry Pratchett

Astronomy 115

- Dr. Mike Reed
- Office: 103L Kemper Hall
 - Phone: 836-5131
- e-mail: mikereed@missouristate.edu
- Office Hours: M,W,F 10-11:30 am
- Tuesdays & Thursdays I work remotely; we can always schedule a zoom session.

Emergency stuff (in syllabus too)

- Shelter information: Shelter in this room, bathrooms, offices with no windows.
- Evacuation information: Strong Hall rooms 1, 2, 3.

<http://sdbv.missouristate.edu/mreed/CLASS/A115>

- The textbook is on-line (pdf or html).
- **Lecture notes will be posted after class.**
- Please let me know if you need help accessing the web, or if the web pages are not working.
- **Blackboard for grades, syllabus, on-line textbook.**
- **Labs scores will be included on our main blackboard page- not separate lab pages.**

Grading

Based on answers, not effort.

- Test- 300 points
- Tests will be part multiple choice, part short answer.
 - Make-up tests are all short answer!
- Homework and in-class assignments- 200 points
 - ~4 Homework, ~4 in-class assignments.
- Quizzes- 150 points
- There will be 17 quizzes given throughout the semester. The 2 lowest quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.
You must use your clickers for these (allowed 2 exceptions).
- Group Projects- 100 points. 2 projects.
- Labs- 250 points.

Tests

We will have three 1 hour section tests (25-30 questions each).

If you want, rather than taking the last section test, you can take a longer (about 50 questions) comprehensive final. That score will count as your last section test score *and* replace any lower section test scores.

But you cannot replace two 0 scores with a comprehensive final.

Group Projects

- There will be two group activities (50 points each).
- You will work in groups to complete the activity and turn in one set of written answers with your names on it.

Homework

- HW will be assigned (often out of the book), and you will do it on paper. On the due date, I will have converted the questions to multiple choice, which you will answer on your paper.

In-class Assignments

- We will do several in-class assignments during the semester.
 - **These will be done in small groups.**
 - Seating will be assigned (a seating chart will be posted).
 - **Each group member receives the same score.**
- Some times you may need to do reading in advance.

Labs

- You will have a lab this week, not just, “Hi, how are you?”
- You will receive all necessary lab materials (including printed labs) during your lab.
- Some labs require pre-lab reading. Your lab instructor, Jonah Vercher or Gaige Riggs, will notify you.
- On blackboard, lab scores will appear as Lab 1, Lab 2, Lab 3, etc. which corresponds to the week.

Night labs will get to see stars at our observatory, day lab will look at sunspots at some point.

Labs on Blackboard

- Labs will total to 280 points, but only 250 will count towards your total grade- there is a scaled total lab score on blackboard..
- As such, blackboard 'Total Points' will not reflect the 'real' course points.

Turning Technologies 'clicker'

- These will be used for quizzes and general questions.

Any questions on grading or
work?

Question #1

Would you like the class curved (fixed number of A grades, B grades, etc.), or would you like percentage grading (90% + is an A, 80-90% is a B, etc.)?

We will answer this on Friday using our 'clickers'

Question #2

Would you like +/- grading? (There are no A+ or D- scores.)

We will answer this on Friday using 'clickers'

My responsibilities:

- Be on time.
- Have lectures prepared.
- Encourage questions.
- Have tests and homeworks promptly graded so you can review them while they are still fresh in your mind.
- Grade fairly with clear criteria.
- Be respectful.

This is a University

- There is **no extra credit work**.
- You are responsible for your own progress in this class.
 - If you miss work because you choose not to come to class (or show up late or leave early), you cannot make it up. There are no excused absences. Let me know if you will be gone for an extended time.
 - It is **your responsibility** to make sure your work is legible and in the correct format. Not mine. If you get a 0 because you wrote your name as “Billy G”, that is your issue and not mine.

Your responsibilities

- Be responsible adults.
- Be respectful while others are talking and of their ideas.
- Be prepared- reading done, phones on silent and put away, email/facebook closed
 - Answer when called upon.
 - “I don’t know” is perfectly acceptable



Get help if you need it.

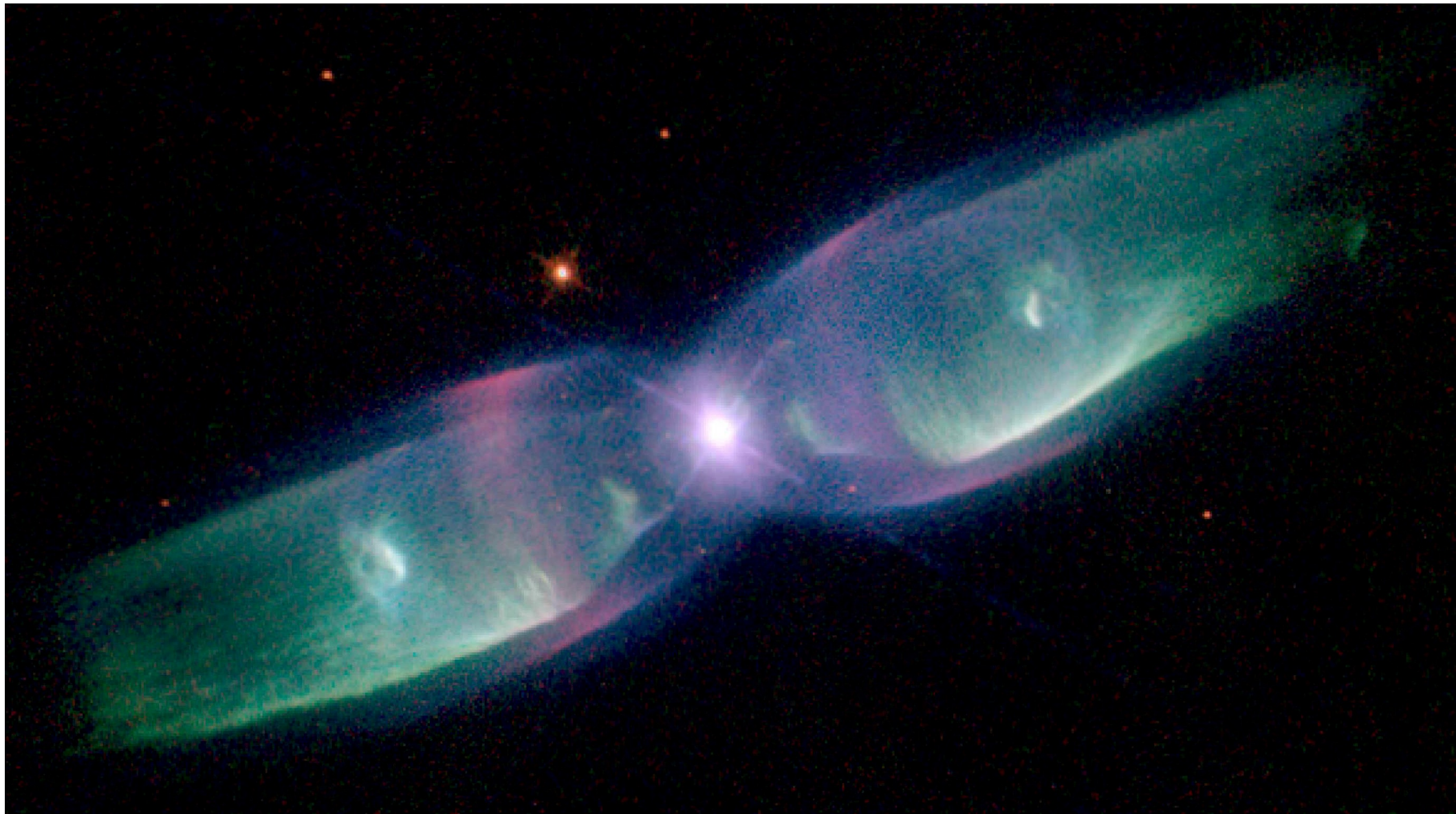
- You're paying my salary. You're quite welcome to come by my office and get help- even outside of office hours. Don't be discouraged if my door is shut. I'm probably still inside. **I have a touchscreen outside my office which says if I'm in or not.**
 - You can also try the Bear Claw.

Math

- Like French is the language of love, Math is the language of science. Though we will treat phenomena descriptively, there are some things that need a mathematical explanation.
- There is a brief math review on our course web page.

Any Questions?

The wonder of astronomy: the beauty and the unknown.



**What is it that makes
astronomy so
interesting?**



What is it that makes astronomy so interesting?

It is our interest in knowing the unknown.


The power to connect our imaginations to science.

What is it that makes astronomy so interesting?

It is our interest in knowing the unknown.

And that's what science is all about!

Thinking new thoughts and testing them.



**Let's do some
astronomy!**