

Paper and Presentation – HON 210 – The Physics of Interstellar.

You will write a paper and do a presentation on an approved topic related to the course. The first draft of the paper will be November 3rd and the final paper will be due by November 24th. The presentations will be scheduled for November 12-19. A majority will be in person, but a couple may be delivered to the classroom via Zoom to accommodate health restrictions.

Topics

Topics should be relevant to the course. We have spent time discussing relativity, modern physics, astronomy, black holes, disasters on Earth, space flight, the current view of the universe, higher dimensions, etc. If multiple people select the same topic, there should be an attempt to have a different focus. This will be noted during the approval process for your selected topic. The aim is to bring something different and interesting to the class in the presentations.

Papers

These will be reports which are typed with double-spacing and 12 pt font. You will be expected to use correct English grammar and punctuation. Do not just list the answers, but put everything into proper sentence and paragraph form. DO NOT COPY AND PASTE text from the Internet. You should show that you have read and digested the material. Do not forget to include references to sources you used.

Grades will be based upon how much you seemed to have learned and communicated to the instructor. Make sure you follow the general directions for the format, including that you are not just listing the questions and answering them, but writing an essay of substantial length. This will count towards your assignment grade. Also, consideration will be given towards organization, clarity, understanding the content, and other appropriate expectations similar to those listed below for the presentations.

Papers should be about 3500-4000 words. There should be an introduction, a body, a conclusion, and a set of references all of which are cited throughout the paper. The body can be further broken into sections but not section should be only one paragraph long. Paragraphs should not span pages but capture single topics of discussion.

Presentations

Talks should be 10-15 minutes long. This will count 15% of your grade. Evaluation of the oral presentation will be based on the following set of expectations:

- **Organization.**
 - Begin with an introduction, capture audience interest, and to make objectives clear.
 - Have an identifiable body of the talk, focusing on the main points and making logical transitions between them.
 - End with a conclusion, accentuating the talk layout and identifying key takeaway points.
 - Adhere to the time allocation.
 - Well prepared slides, readable, consistent font size and type.
- **Consideration of the audience.**
 - Maintain eye contact during the presentation and include everyone in the audience.
 - Aim for audience understanding. What will they take away from your talk?

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- Respond appropriately to questions during the question and answer period.
- Treat all questions and questioners with respect.
- Do not read to the audience.
- **Understanding of the content.**
 - Communicate key ideas accurately.
 - Use media appropriately to enhance presentation.
- **Deliver a clear and professional talk.**
 - It is crucial that the audience understand the main points of the presentation. This is far, far more important than coverage of a large amount of material from the paper.
 - Use good judgment in narrowing the scope of the paper for the presentation to achieve this.
 - Prepare presentations that
 - are easily read from any place in the classroom;
 - are simple, uncluttered and designed to help communicate, review and relate main points.
 - use good grammar, word usage, standard notation, layout, and style.
 - Reference/Cite all content appropriately

Randomly Ordered Presentation Dates – updated 11/9

Nov 12

Claire	Sorensen
Matthew	Epperly
Jack	Mix
Roxann	Brna

Nov 17

Scott	Finnis
Tucker	Norton
Mallie	Littman
Landon	Calton

Nov 19

Nolan	Frost
Sankalp	Yadav
Lindsey	Southerland
Sarah	Riedlin