

HON 210 Cosmic Origins – Exam I Review

1. The Universe
 - a. Age, Size, Number of stars/galaxies
 - b. Homogeneous, isotropic
2. Ancient Cultures
 - a. Turtles all the way down
 - b. Name ancient civilizations
 - c. Know some of their views of the universe (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greek, Hindu, etc.)
 - d. Common beliefs
3. Greek Science
 - a. Eratosthenes, Earth's circumference
 - b. Geocentric models
 - c. Anaximander, Eudoxus, Callippus, Aristotle, Aristarchus, Hipparchus, Ptolemy
 - d. Epicycles
4. European Science
 - a. Copernicus, heliocentric model
 - b. Giordano Bruno
 - c. Galileo, telescope, moon, Jupiter, Venus
 - d. Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Galileo
 - e. Isaac Newton, Edmond Halley, laws of motion, law of gravitation
 - f. Michael Faraday, James Clerk Maxwell, Hertz – electromagnetism
 - g. Wavelength, frequency, wavespeed, ($c = f\lambda$, $d = vt$)
 - h. Electromagnetic spectrum (visible range, x-ray, radio, ultraviolet, infrared, microwave, ..)
 - i. Spectroscopy, Doppler effect (Blueshift, redshift)
 - j. Olber's Paradox
5. Special Relativity
 - a. Einstein's postulates
 - b. Consequences – time dilation, length contraction, simultaneity, energy-mass equivalence
 - c. Twin paradox
 - d. Time travel
6. General Relativity
 - a. Spacetime
 - b. Curved spacetime – flat, positive, negative
 - c. Tests of general relativity (Mercury's orbit, light bending, time dilation, GPS)
 - d. Sir Arthur Eddington, eclipse and bending of light
 - e. Gravitational Waves, sources
 - f. LIGO,
7. History of Astronomy and Telescopes
 - a. The Milky Way – size, where we live, type
 - b. William and Caroline Herschel, Uranus, comets, telescopes
 - c. Friedrich Bessel and parallax
 - d. Charles Messier, star classification
 - e. William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, Leviathan
 - f. Nathaniel Pigott, John Goodricke (Algol, Cepheids, Variable stars)
 - g. John Herschel and photography based on Daguerre's work

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- h. Henry Draper, Edward Pickering, Harvard Observatory
 - i. Harvard Computers – Williamina Fleming, Annie Jump Cannon, Henrietta Swan Leavitt
 - j. The Great 1920 Debate – Shapley-Curtis
 - k. George Ellery Hale, Yerkes, Mt Wilson, Lick, Mt Palomar-Hale observatories
 - l. Edwin Hubble, distance of Cepheid in M31, Universe is expanding, Age of Universe
 - m. Spectroscopy and Doppler Effect (blueshift, redshift), Huggins, Slipher
8. Birth of Modern Cosmology
- a. Slipher, Henrietta Leavitt, Edwin Hubble
 - b. Cepheid variables, variable stars
 - c. Olber's Paradox
 - d. General Relativity and Cosmology – Einstein, Schwarzschild, Friedman, Lemaitre
 - e. Cosmological constant, Hubble's constant