Astro 118 Quarter Project

Winter 2012

• The quarter project should be a 10-page write-up (a report), including any figures that you may want to include. Pick a topic that interests you.

• Do not pick too broad of a topic. For instance, "Mars" is too broad, but "Mars' magnetic field" or "Habitability of Titan when the Sun becomes a Red Giant" is fine. "Exoplanets" is too broad, but "Chemistry of Gas Giant Atmospheres" or the "Structure of Rocky Exoplanets" is fine.

• The sources for your material should be textbooks, scholarly articles, reasonable web pages, and scientific magazines. Scholarly articles and Physics Today, etc. can be found using ADS.

• The deadlines for the project are:

Pick a topic: Jan 25th. Via email, send me your topic and a short paragraph describing what you want to do
Create an outline: Feb 15th. In class, turn in a 1-2 page outline of the sections/subsections that you expect to write
Turn in final project: Mar 9th. Paper *and* electronic copies are due.

• To get ideas for your project, look through our book, the two other textbooks on reserve in the library, talk to your friends, and look on the Internet.

• At the end of the report you must also include the list of references that you used for the creation of the project. This is in addition to the 10 pages.

• It is exceptionally important that you do your own work. If you do quote small bits of text directly from a source, this needs to be made obvious to the reader. The vast majority (essentially 100%) of the text needs to be of your own creation, not borrowed from another source.

• You do not need to do any additional research, beyond a literature review, but if you choose to do some additional calculations in support of your project, that is certainly encouraged.