

Astro 118 Quarter Project Winter 2014

- 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. (10 pages double-spaced.)
- 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 “Planet Tectonics on 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 the ADS.
- The deadlines for the project are:

Pick a topic: Jan 24th. Via email, send me your topic and a short paragraph describing what you want to do.

Create an outline: Feb 14th. In class, turn in a 1-2 page outline of the sections/subsections that you expect to write.

Turn in final project: Mar 10th. Paper *and* electronic copies are due.

- To get ideas for your project, look through our book, the other textbooks that I mentioned, 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.

Final Project Grading Rubric

Accuracy & Information Content, 25%

Length, 25%

Clarity & Readability, 30%

Sources, 20%