

Astronomy 160b, 2007 — Optional Paper Assignment

Recommended length: 6-10 pages

During this course I've mentioned some historical episodes that I've called "fables". The assignment is to find out more details of what really happened in one of these events, and consider the implications of that episode in terms of how science is, or should be, conducted. Thus your paper has to do two things: first, it should describe what happened, second it should reflect on how this event illuminates how science is done. A narrative that just recounts what happened isn't enough.

Please use at least two sources, preferably more. If you have trouble finding sources, let me know, and I'll give you a pointer. Note that wikipedia should *not* be used as a source, since it keeps changing. But it may be helpful to look at some wikipedia entries to orient yourself to what is going on, and to find other sources. If you do this, please note in your bibliography that you've done so, and mention the pages you looked at. But if you are going to cite specific details, quotes, events etc, find some other source for the material.

The paper is due on April 26, at the last lecture. Since this is an optional assignment, no late papers will be accepted. If you'd like to talk the assignment over, please come by Starbucks hours or make an appointment at some other time. I would be happy to provide comments on drafts, outlines, or any other work you'd care submit *provided* you get it to me on or before Tuesday April 17.