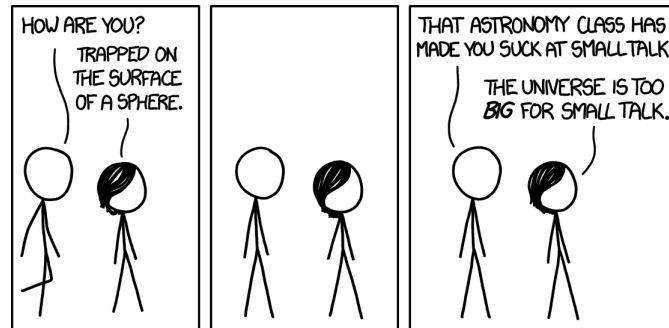


# Astronomy C10: Introduction to General Astronomy (Fall 2020)

**GSI:** Tyler Cox  
**Email:** [tyler.a.cox@berkeley.edu](mailto:tyler.a.cox@berkeley.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Monday 10–11 am, Tuesday 3–4 pm or by appointment  
**Office Hours Link:** <https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/6059001192>  
**Sections:**  
#110: Wednesdays 9-10 AM, [Zoom Link](#)  
#112: Wednesdays 12-1 PM, [Zoom Link](#)  
#125: Monday 9-10 AM, [Zoom Link](#),  
#129: Friday 11-12 PM [Zoom Link](#)  
**Password:** AyC10-Zoom

## Purpose of this Section

We will spend two and a half hours every week on lecture, so this discussion section will not be an additional lecture. Instead, the focus of this discussion section will be to reinforce the course content and clarify key concepts through a variety of group discussions, activities, worksheets, videos and demonstrations. The purpose of this is get you engaging with the material and working on problems that astronomers think about. Ultimately, my goal is for you to come away from this discussion section excited about astronomy and the universe we live in!



## Quizzes and Participation

Quizzes and participation will be the two items in discussion section that will affect your final grade. Quizzes will be administered in section. They will be ~ 20 minutes long and are short answer format (as opposed to the multiple-choice format of your midterm and final). These quizzes are scheduled for the week of **September 21–25** and the week of **October 26–30**.

Participation will be a combination of section attendance and participation in the in-class activities. Attendance during the first three weeks of discussion section is **required**. This helps us keep track of who is attending which sections. After that, it's technically optional but attendance/participation does count towards a portion of your grade, so attending and participating in the discussion section will help you succeed in this class. That being said everyone participates differently, there is no cut and dry formula for this. Just be sure to show up, keep up with the class, engage with the material, myself, and your classmates, and you'll be in good shape!

## Office Hours & TALC

I will personally be holding office hours on **Monday 10–11 am** and **Tuesday 3–4 pm**. At office hours we can go over additional questions, review course material in greater depth, or talk about anything else under the sun. Feel free to ask for advice on anything – even if it isn't directly related to the course. If either of my set office hour times don't work for you and you would like to set a meeting with me, reach out over email and we can schedule a meeting time that works for you. Additionally, the office hours of all the GSIs will be posted onto bCourses within the first week. Feel free to attend an office hour run by any of the GSIs.

I strongly encourage everyone to attend The Astronomy Learning Center (TALC) meetings. TALC is a large, collaborative "office hour" where you can work on homework in an informal, group setting. TALC is staffed by two GSIs who serve as guides, rather than tutors, in helping groups with your homework problems. We will have TALC **Wednesday 7–9 PM** and **Thursdays 7-9 PM**, held over Zoom. It is very useful and a great place to

work on the homework.

In addition to office hours and TALC, you can always reach out to me directly over email and I'll do my best to get back to you as quickly as possible!

## Cheating

**Please, please, please do not cheat.** For more details on the department's academic integrity policy, see: [Policy on Academic Misconduct](#)

## Lecture & Materials

Here's some additional information from the course syllabus:

- **Class Lectures:** MWF 3:10 - 4 pm via Zoom.
- **Course Reader:** Available on [redshelf](#)
- **Course Textbook:** "The Cosmos: Astronomy in the New Millennium" (5th Ed.) by Pasachoff and Filippenko.
- **Grades:**
  - The Final: 75 points
  - Midterms 1 & 2: 25 points each
  - Homework: 23 points
  - Lab Exercises: 15 points
  - Quizzes 1 (Sept. 21–25) & 2 (Oct. 26–30): 7 points each
  - Participation: 3 points

## Some Final Notes

If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you want to share with me, or if you need special arrangements, please inform me and Prof. Filippenko as soon as possible.

In order to promote an inclusive and equitable environment for participation and learning, racism, sexism, ableism, and other forms of intolerance have no place in this discussion section. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself, Sergiy Vasylyev (your head GSI for the course), Prof. Filippenko, or any other GSI for this course. In general, be respectful and be kind.

Finally, with this semester being remote, it's as important as ever to communicate any problems that you may have with myself, Prof. Filippenko, or any of the other GSIs. I want section to be as helpful as possible and for you all to walk away feeling that this course was interesting, fun, and rewarding. Feel free to communicate with me anything that may or may not be working. I'm always willing to discuss difficulties that you're having with this course or otherwise, and I will do my best to help. I look forward to this semester of astronomy with everybody!