INSTRUCTOR: Dr. John E. Poling, Science E38, voice mail (ext 61583), e-mail (jpoling@calpoly.edu), web page (http://www.calpoly.edu/~jpoling).

TEXT: "UNIVERSE, 8th edition", Roger A. Freedman and William J. Kaufmann III

OFFICE HOURS: I encourage you to come to my office hours for help with the course.

EXAMS: I will give you two midterm exams (approximately 80 points each), and a final exam (approximately 120 points), for a total of 280 possible exam points. The midterm exams will be probably be given on Wednesday 1/27 and on Friday 2/19. The final exam is on Monday 3/15. The midterm exams will have conceptual questions and numerical problems similar to the assigned homework and similar to calculations done in class or presented as examples in the text. The final exam will be on the material covered after the second midterm (about 80 points) and will also review the material already covered on the two midterm exams (about 40 points).

You may bring your calculator and a single three inch by five inch card of notes and equations to each midterm exam and three such cards to the final exam. I will provide any constants you need but I will not provide any equations so you must be sure to include all of the equations you will need on your card. You should keep the card you make for each midterm to also bring to the final. The cards must be no larger than three by five inches and must be hand written (you may use both sides). I do not allow photocopied or computer printed cards. Space will be provided on the exam papers for you to answer the questions and work the problems. I will provide scratch paper if you request it. Forgetting your calculator or your note card is a serious problem. Try not to put yourself into that position, and if you do please let me know about it before you begin writing the exam.

If you must miss an exam for some good reason, you need to notify me before the scheduled exam time. You may notify me in person, by a call to my office voice mail, or by e-mail - I prefer in person or email. You must also communicate with me before the next meeting of the class so that we can decide when and where you will take the makeup exam. I will offer you a makeup exam only if you follow these rules, and I will offer you no more than one makeup exam during the quarter.

PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES: If you have medical or family or personal problems which may make this a difficult quarter for you, please talk to me early in the quarter or soon after the problem occurs in case there is anything I can do to help you. If you wait until you have received a very low exam score, there will be little I can do.

HOMEWORK: I will assign homework for each chapter we cover, but I will not collect or grade this homework. I will put the homework assignments on the web page I make for this course (I do not use Blackboard). I will also put answers for all assigned conceptual questions and numerical problems on the web page. You may use the answers in whatever way you wish, but if you don't actually try to do the assigned homework on your own before you look at my answers you may not be successful in this class. If you are having difficulty doing the homework, you should visit me during my office hours.

OBSERVATORY: You are required to visit the observatory once during the quarter for a visual observing session for 10 points. You will need to hand in a short paragraph listing the date you attended and the objects you were able to observe.

CONSTELLATION: I will ask you to choose a major constellation which is easily visible in the night sky during the quarter. I want you to learn to find that constellation in the sky, and I want you to learn the names of four bright stars in the constellation. You will also need to look up the distance to each of the four stars in light years, the apparent magnitude, the absolute magnitude, the luminosity in suns, and the radius in solar radii. When you have done all of this in a short paragraph listing the date when you actually saw the constellation and the four bright stars, draw a stick figure of the constellation with the four
stars labeled, and list the information I have requested for each of the four stars. This effort will be worth 10 points.

**STARRY NIGHT ASTRONOMY PROGRAM:** I will demonstrate some of the things which can be done with this program during class. If you have the program you will enjoy using it. If you don’t have the program I will have a copy on a computer in my office and you can use it during my office hours. If you like the program you can go to the Starry Night website and purchase a copy. The least expensive version is about $25 to download.

**ATTENDANCE:** I will take attendance occasionally by passing around a roll sheet on which you will mark an x to show that you are present. Then I will count those present to make sure that the count agrees with the number of x’s. I will not be giving any extra credit for good attendance or charging any penalty for poor attendance, but when a student asks a favor the first thing I check is my attendance records. Sometimes there is a good reason for poor attendance, but usually there is not a good reason and I am less sympathetic to any problems students with poor attendance may have with the course.

**YOUR GRADE:** Grading scales for the two midterm exams (without +/-) will be announced in class to give you a reasonably good idea of how you are doing as the quarter progresses. At the end of the quarter I will list all of your points on the Astr 302 web page so you can confirm that I have all of your points recorded correctly. I will identify you by the last four digits of your Cal Poly ID, which you can find on the “My Cal Poly” page. The total points you accumulate during the quarter will be used to determine your course grade.