AST 201: Mapping the Universe MAP PROJECT

The final project for Mapping the Universe will be to create an original map inspired by something in this course.

This will be due on Jan. 13 (Dean’s Date) to be turned in to Charlotte in her corner office in Peyton Hall by 5pm. Put your name on the map.

The suggested size of the map is less than or equal to poster size, but it can simply be on an 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper. Submit the paper copy to Charlotte. BUT ALSO---

Take a picture of your map with a digital camera (the department has one you can borrow from Charlotte if you can’t get use of one). Email me the picture at jrg@astro.princeton.edu and copy ruid@princeton.edu. By 5pm Jan. 13. I want a digital copy from every student. If you have a large file, test to see if you can email it by emailing a copy to yourself. Very large files (>2Mb) you can email using Gmail. MAKE THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL: ASTRO 201—MAP PROJECT. If by off-chance you would like to make a 3D map or globe, you can, BUT—if you do, you must take a 3D picture of it to submit by email—two views about 7 degrees apart, one for the left eye, one for the right eye. Put them side by side, with the left eye view on the right so they can be viewed cross-eyed—see Sizing Up the Universe for details. That will be the electronic copy.

In addition each map should be accompanied by a two page explanation of the map—double spaced 12 point type. This should explain idea of the map and its features. This should be handed in to Charlotte and sent to me by email also. This description is important. For example, if Mercator were to submit his map, one might appreciate its great accuracy, detail and nice appearance, but his two page explanation would say how it was constructed and that the map had perfect local shapes, and gave good compass directions—that’s what made it famous.

Be creative, use your imagination. Take the time and trouble to make a really excellent map. Detail, accuracy, and artistic value are important. It can be any map inspired by this course. For example, it could be a map of an astronomical body, a map of the Earth, a map of a spacetime diagram, or an entirely new kind of map. It may even be as whimsical as a spacetime diagram of the book the Time Traveler’s Wife, showing the complicated worldlines of the major characters. It may be a map that would illustrate some astronomical concept that might be useful for a textbook. You may draw the map by hand or construct it on the computer using a graphics program. If you make up a new map projection for example, you might plot a digital image of a planet from NASA data, but it would have to be a new map projection not used on that planet before, and you would have to say exactly what you did. No slightly altering existing images or tracing existing maps—you have to do something new! I will be grading all of these maps myself. Surprise me—I am looking forward to seeing all of these! Some of the best ones I hope to hang up in Peyton Hall as an exhibit downstairs or enter in “Princeton’s Science as Art” show which is usually held in the spring (that would use the electronic images).