ASTR 314 : Survey of Astronomy

Instructions for taking Quizzes and accessing WebCT

ASTR 314 uses the WebCT system to administer quizzes and for posting your grades. On WebCT you will take quizzes to test your mathematics aptitude and to test material presented in the textbooks as well as in lecture, which will serve as practice for the in-class exams. We begin with a description of these quizzes.

**Quizzes:** These are short quizzes that are administered in ensure that you are familiar with the mathematics that will be used during the class. There will be an unlimited number of attempts allowed to take each quiz. Students who have achieved 100% scores on all of the mathematics review quizzes will receive additional points on their first exam.

**Practice Exams:** There will be one practice exam posted at least one week prior to each mid-term and the final exam. These exams will have questions similar to those you may expect on the final exams. *Note that while the practice exams will be multiple choice, questions on the written exams will not be (you will be expected to show all your work on the written exam to receive full credit)!* There will be an unlimited number of attempts allowed to take each practice exam. Students who have achieved 100% scores on the practice exams will receive extra credit on the corresponding in-class written exam.

Getting started with WebCT

To use WebCT you will need a NEO account. Instructions for activating your NEO account can be found by going to the URL: [http://elearning.tamu.edu/help/logon_instructions.php](http://elearning.tamu.edu/help/logon_instructions.php). These instructions are available both as a webpage and as a PDF for download.

**Step 1**

Go to [http://elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu) and log into WebCT Tamu Login (which will appear on the center of your browser window). You will be prompted for you username and password. These are the same as your NEO account.

**Provisional Step (This is only if you browser requires updates)** A check of your browser will occur automatically when you attempt to login. If you receive an error message, use the following instructions to fix.

Before going any further, be aware that WebCT is using Vista version 3.0, this means that you may have to update your version of “Java” and go through the “Tune up your browser with Vista.” To access these different links, go to [http://elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu) and go to the Current Students link at the top of the webpage. A drop down menu will appear and you will click on the WebCT Vista Resources link. This will take you to a page with four different links, click on Getting started with WebCT Vista. Finally, click on the link Upgrade Java Virtual Machine. Then follow the instructions to make sure your browser is compatible with WebCT.

**Step 2**

Once you are registered with WebCT and upgraded your browser, you can begin the quizzes from any campus computer with Internet access. *If you are attempting to access WebCT off campus and experience troubles* For off-campus computers you must either have a
TAMUnet modem connection or have a VPN (Virtual Private Network) client running (e.g. if you have a cable modem or DSL connection). For more information about VPN and TAMUnet, please refer to the CIS support staff: (979) 845-8300.

**Step 3**

Once you have successfully entered both your username and password and entered WebCT, you will be taken to a “Courses” page. Click on the link ASTR 314 to access your Homepage. From there you click on Quizzes to access your Quiz, etc. **Checking your grades with WebCT:** You can check your quiz and other grades by choosing the "My Grades" option on the WebCT ASTR 314 tool bar on the top of the homepage. If your scores are not available, contact your instructor.

**NEED HELP? :**

You can receive help through by contacting your instructor. If you are having trouble with WebCT there are WebCT training sessions listed on [http://elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu) at the beginning of the semester. If you are having trouble getting into WebCT, need technical assistance (registration/lost passwords etc.), or believe there is a WebCT problem please contact WebCT directly by filling the request assistance form at [http://elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu) and clicking on the Fill Out the Online Help Form link on the lower portion of your screen under Need Help? There is also physics department WebCT Frequently Asked Questions page at [http://faculty.physics.tamu.edu/toback/WebCT/FAQ.html](http://faculty.physics.tamu.edu/toback/WebCT/FAQ.html).

If you have any questions regarding the physics or math content, or if you do not understand the homework grading system, email Prof. Casey Papovich papovich@physics.tamu.edu. If you have trouble accessing the WebCT interface, please write both webct@physics.tamu.edu and papovich@physics.tamu.edu. Please only use these options if all other resources have been exhausted. He will ask you if you have tried the request assistance option first.

This document can be found at:

[http://faculty.physics.tamu.edu/papovich/WebCT/WebCT_ASTR314.pdf](http://faculty.physics.tamu.edu/papovich/WebCT/WebCT_ASTR314.pdf)

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