Welcome to Astronomy 101L. Our goal is by the end of the semester to have every single one of you change your major to Astronomy. Not really, but I wouldn’t be surprised if you did. You will have control over state of the art telescopes thousands of miles away and will be using them to probe the deepest depths of the outer space. Starting from within the solar system, we will progress you further and further away until you truly have redefined your place in the universe.

General Information:
The majority of the labs this semester will be done on the computer. As such, it is your responsibility to bring a working laptop to class each week as well as any other materials listed in the lab description. If this is going to be a problem, please let me know and we can make arrangements. Please show up to all labs on time having read through the lab materials for that week (see the “Quizzes” section for my tardiness and preparedness policy). If for some reason you will not be able to make the lab please let me know ahead of time and we can make arrangements for you to attend another section. Please do not show up to another lab section without first contacting myself or the other lab instructor.

WebAssign/Lab Reports:
You will be using WebAssign in place of a hard copy lab manual. This is also where you will submit final materials in place of a traditional written lab report. The cost of WebAssign access and the lab ebook is (to my most recent knowledge) $65.00 and can be paid for with a credit card or at the student store. Satisfactory completion of each lab will include:
• Briefly answering all questions in the lab.
• Uploading all requested images and graphs.
• Briefly discussing your results and any sources of error.
For some of the labs there will be more objects listed that you will have images to submit. This is because some objects are only visible during certain times of the year.
You can access WebAssign via the website above. Then click on the “I Have a Class Key” link (see the image to the right) and enter: unc 4142 2675
A Few Useful Websites:
• Course Website
http://www.physics.unc.edu/~edennihy/astr101L.html
• General Lab Information
http://www.skynet.unc.edu/ASTR101L/
• Video Tutorials (very useful review of information we covered in the lab)
http://skynet.unc.edu/ASTR101L/index.php?content=vids
• WebAssign (Lab Documentation and Write-Up Submission)
http://www.webassign.net/
• Skynet (your at home observation deck)
http://www.skynet.unc.edu/
• Afterglow (image processing software)
http://skynet.unc.edu/afterglow/
• Stellarium (night sky simulator)
http://www.stellarium.org/

Late Policy:
Labs are due by 12 pm (noon), Friday of the week following the lab. For example, if your lab is held on Monday Jan 14th it will be due Friday Jan 25th. It is for this reason I chose to adopt such a strict late policy. There is more than enough time to complete each assignment. ***I will not accept late labs*** However if there is a situation absolutely preventing you from completing your lab on time, please e-mail me as soon as possible so we can sort something out. Note this should come to my attention before the lab is due, not after. There is a very big difference.

Grading Policy:
The labs will be graded on a curve. I will post the grade distribution each week as soon as possible on the course website. The mean and standard deviation of your grades will be calculated each week and your letter grade determined by the number of standard deviations you are away from the mean. NOTE: The grades will be listed by point totals corresponding to a particular letter grade. There will be a few labs where you are asked to collect data with a partner but that does not mean you are to submit the same lab. Please complete all questions and graphs on your own. I fully encourage discussion with your peers and working together but please respect UNC’s Honor Code and submit your work (See http://honor.unc.edu/ for a reminder).

Quizzes:
Each week I will give a short (~5 questions) quiz at the beginning of class. These quizzes will ensure you have read the lab material for the week. These should be easy points if you have read the lab ahead of time. The quiz scores will be added together at the end of the semester and total one lab grade. This will be a great opportunity to make up for any low lab scores. If you’re late to the lab you will be forced to accept a zero on the quiz. This is in bold for a reason.