

Makeup Quiz

Due Tuesday, May 8, 2001

I promised several of you who have missed quizzes that there would be a makeup assignment. Well, here it is (for anyone who spoke to me about making up a quiz BEFORE actually missing it). Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to pick a topic that interests you from one of the chapters in our textbook, read a recent scientific paper by that author, and write a 2 page report on it. Start from the following website http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract_service.html and search for scientific publications by the chapter author in the last 2-3 years. Select astronomy, type the author's last name and first initial into the first box and 1999 into the "From" box. Then hit "Send Query". The form will return a list of abstracts and journal article that the author has written or coauthored. Choose an article that is relevant to ASTR430 from one of the following journals (Icarus, JGR, Planetary and Space Science, AJ, Ap.J., Nature, Science). Read the abstract first to see if it sounds interesting! You can get some of these articles online - others will require you to track down the journal and make a copy of the article at the library. I recommend Nature and Science papers because they are usually written for the non specialist.

Your report should summarize the paper in your own words - what problem did the authors address, what were their conclusions? Write at a level that ASTR430 students who have not read the paper could understand.