

Final Project

AAS-Style Talk Session

In lieu of a final exam, you will be doing final presentations. You can choose the format:

- A live 5-min AAS-style talk with 2min of questions (in-person if possible, or via Zoom)
- A pre-recorded 5-min talk, posted to YouTube, with 2min of live questions
- Some other format you think of. I'm interested in what *you* think is interesting, so if you have ideas of another way to present material then let me know!

Your talk must focus on something recent and related to “Stellar Observation and Theory”. This is broadly defined, and could include (but is not limited to):

- An interesting or mysterious single star or class of stars
- An interesting new theory relating to stars, stellar evolution, or observations of stars
- A recent paper focused on stars (theory or observations)

If you need ANY help coming up with ideas for what is “interesting”, talk with Jim or Andy!

Part 1 (Due Feb 16th, 5PM PST)

20 points

Submit a 1-page PDF with the following

- The title of your topic
- A paragraph describing the star/topic/theory you're going to present, including **citations to at least 2 recent or important references**. Be sure to describe why this topic is interesting, and what *single* main result you will focus your presentation. (This is akin to a conference talk abstract. Be sure to include lots of details, but keep it to within a half-page)
- The full References to your 2 (or more) citations. These probably should be published scientific (journal) articles, but I will accept other things if you make a strong case.
- A screenshot of 1 interesting figure or result you'll use in your presentation. Be sure to include the reference for where this figure came from!
- Your preferred presentation time & format
 - *NOTE*: I can't promise everyone will get the date they want, but I'll try!

As with homework assignments, this must be submitted via a Dropbox Link you will receive in your email. Email Jim if you can't find this link!

Part 2 (Wed, Mar 9th & Mon, Mar 14th)

80 points

25 x (5min talks + 2min questions) is equivalent to 2 science sessions at a AAS meeting. Therefore we'll hold 2 talk sessions. **You need to attend both sessions!** (As always, let me know if you have a conflict). If we are in a virtual-learning format, these sessions will be held via Zoom.

Your grade is dependent on both your presentation and audience participation.

- **35 points:** Give your 5 minute presentation. Have slides prepared and ready to present. We won't penalize being +/- 30 seconds, but just like in a real AAS session I will cut you off if you go way over time.
 - It is **DIFFICULT** to hit 5 minutes exactly, so a word to the wise: practice!
 - I will give you 1-min warning (i.e. when you have reached 4min of your presentation... this will sneak up on you fast!)
- **5 points:** Submit a copy of your slides (in PDF format) to Jim
 - Be sure your slides include the Topic/Title, your name, the date you are presenting
- **20 points:** Attend both talk sessions
- **20 points:** Ask at least 1 Question from another talk **each day**. This should end up with ~2 questions for everyone. I won't let the Q/A go on for more than ~2minutes, so be prepared to ask from multiple speakers
 - Asking Questions is hard, I suggest you take brief notes throughout each talk, jotting down ideas for a Q. Ask reasonable, relevant Q's to the topic. Intentionally stumping the speaker will only embarrass them and disappoint your instructor....
 - Pro tip: feed a "softball" Q to a classmate for your talk, just in case...
 - Answering questions on the fly is really hard. It's OK to say you don't know the answer, try to think through the question and what the answer might be. It's OK to ask for help!
 - **WARNING:** if there are NO questions for a speaker, everybody's grade goes down (i.e. let's have fun and be nice to each other, don't leave your colleagues hanging!)