

UCF Physics: AST 6165 Planetary Atmospheres

Spring 2020 Student Presentations

The student presentations are what make AST 6165 a graduate course. They represent both a substantial part of the grade and a key element of content delivery for the class. As such, it is important that these short talks be quantitative in nature and represent some significant research and preparation. Grading will be on a professional scale, as though you were giving a review talk at a conference. Talks will usually be given in the last 25 minutes of class.

The experience will be similar to a class, conference review talk, or candidacy exam/dissertation defense presentation, and is good preparation for all of these. The format is 15 minutes for the talk and 10 minutes for discussion. As with any learning experience, the discussion is important and you should prepare backup slides for likely questions. You **MUST** practice your talk and ensure that it fits within the 15-minute time frame. Talks going over 17 minutes will see a grading penalty. This is the reality of public speaking.

We will be critiquing/grading presentation as well as content. Dress appropriately for a formal/business presentation. Present yourself confidently and speak strongly. Make eye contact with and engage your audience. Ensure that they understand what you are saying by asking them some questions (“Are there any questions?” isn’t enough).

Assignment:

- Choose (w/ instructor approval) ~5 pages of dense reading or ~10 pages of sparse reading for class. Material must be peer-reviewed or similar quality. URL or electronic file and full publication reference **DUE** by email to instructor about 1 week after taking the assignment or 3 weeks before lecture, whichever is second.
- **Extra credit:** Make up at least 4 homework problems and their solutions. Typeset PDF with source (ideally LaTeX) **DUE** to instructor by email at least 2 weeks before presentation. Use a **separate** page for each question and for each solution (8 pages total, likely mostly blank). Extra credit is given only if a problem is used on an assignments.
- Reading must be approved by lecturer and assigned to class by presenter **DUE** 1 week before lecture.
- Read additional sources to be knowledgeable about questions. Draw on at least 2 literature papers that you cite.
- After iteration, final problems/solutions **DUE** 1 week before lecture.
- **Due** on date of talk:
 1. Talk visuals for 15-minute talk and questions, as PDF, PPT, etc.
 2. Talk outline/notes/study guide for class (if in talk visuals, separate doc not needed). Can talk off these notes.
- Deliver that talk, lead discussion
- Project from your laptop, not lecturer’s. BYO pointer. MYO copies.

- Students will evaluate all talks. Instructor will grade them.
- All material will be posted online.

Topic file naming convention: `ast6165-<yourname>-<topic>-<item>-<date>.<ext>`.
For example: `ast6165-jh-hurricanes-visuals-2020-02-22.pdf`.