Time Allocation Committee

PHY517 / AST443
End-of-course Evaluation

- Fill in by May 12, 2013
- Goal: 100% response rate
- Possible incentives:
  - wine and cheese at poster presentations
  - 1 week extension on Lab 3 reports
    - would be due on May 10
    - poster presentations still during week of May 13–17
Proposal Structure

- Cover sheet
- Scientific justification, 1–4 pp.
  - describe the science case
  - describe implementation of experiment
- Figures, tables, references
- Object list
Scientific Justification

• “Good proposals include some background on the subject you are studying, in particular why anyone not in your specific field should care. Then you can explain what exactly you want to do, and why it will solve every problem left in astronomy and find a cure for the common cold. Adding good figures and tables almost always makes a proposal stronger and easier to understand for the reviewers.”

(Spitzer Space Telescope Science Center)
Technical Justification

• Describe the details of your planned observations, scheduling constraints, data analysis plans and how the technical plans were validated.

• Include your estimate of the brightness of your targets. Based on those brightness estimates, include your estimate and justification of what SNR values you need to accomplish your science.
  – online exposure time calculators can help
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

• Merit of the scientific justification:
  – does the (PI) present a convincing case for the significance of the experiment?
  – is the proposed experimental approach well-motivated and sound?
  – does the PI make effective use of figures and tables?

• Merit of the technical justification:
  – is the requested time and equipment adequate for the experiment?
  – does the PI include relevant target brightness or signal-to-noise ratio estimates?
  – is the described data gathering and analysis plan reasonable?
Procedure

• During class today:
  – 5 min discussion per proposal
  – proposing team leaves the room during the discussion
  – discussion led by primary and secondary reviewer
  – adjust your preliminary grade, if necessary
  – primary takes notes and subsequently writes a summary review of the proposal

• After class:
  – submit your grades and summary reviews to me

• Proposal grade is the average of all of your grades

• The quality of your personal evaluation is assessed by
  – my reading of your review summary
  – the correlation of your grades with mine