

Physics of Galaxies: Assessment criteria 2017

Overall rules

The final grade is based on five assessment components:

- Seminar 3
- Written report on literature exercise
- Oral report on literature exercise
- Written report on computer/database exercise
- Hand-in problems

Student performance within each of these is assessed on a scale U (fail), 3, 4, 5 where 5 represents the best grade. The final grade on the course is given by the average of these five grades. No final grades will be registered until a passing grade (3, 4 or 5) has been reached within each of these 5 components. However, to complete the course, students also need to get a passing grade in the three exercise sessions and in seminars 1 and 2, which are assessed on the scale U (fail) and G (pass).

Exercise sessions

To attain passing grades in the three exercise sessions, students need to:

- Demonstrate that they have studied and understood the exercises and solutions posted online before coming to class
- Actively participate in solving the problems presented in class

Seminars 1 and 2

To attain a passing grade in seminars 1 and 2, students need to:

- Demonstrate that they have studied and understood the recommended reading material for these seminars
- Actively take part in the seminar exercises

Seminar 3

Criteria for grade 3:

The student demonstrates adequate subject knowledge, is actively taking part in the discussions and presents at least one relevant conclusion based on the observational data.

Criteria for grade 4:

The student demonstrates very good subject knowledge, is actively taking part in the discussions, presents at least two relevant conclusions based on the observational data and suggests at least one type of follow-up measurement with the potential to shed further light on the process/situation studied.

Criteria for grade 5:

The student demonstrates excellent subject knowledge, is actively taking part in the discussions, presents at least three relevant conclusions based on the observational data and suggests at least two types of follow-up measurement with the potential to shed further light on the process/situation studied.

Written and oral report on the literature exercise

When grading the written report, the following is being assessed:

- Understanding of the field in question
- Ability to summarize the state of the field and to use suitable references
- Writing skill

When grading the oral report, the following is being assessed:

- Understanding of the field in question
- Presentation skill
- Ability to answer questions on the topic

Students will not be penalized twice for a lack of scope in the written report. Hence, it is possible to get the maximum grade for an excellent oral presentation of a written report that does not properly summarize the topic at hand. However, a lack of overall understanding of the topic can effectively lower the grade on both the written report and the oral presentation.

Computer exercise

When grading the written report, the following is being assessed:

- Reasoning and completeness of the solutions
- Ability to report on the solutions in an comprehensible way
- Writing skill

Hand-in problems

When correcting the solution to the hand-in exercises, each solution assigned will be assigned up to 5 points (where 5 points would correspond to a flawless solution).

Criteria for grade 3:

The student attains at least 60% of the total maximum score

Criteria for grade 4:

The student attains at least 75% of the total maximum score

Criteria for grade 5:

The student attains at least 90% of the total maximum score