Transiting Exoplanet Observations
ASTRONOMY 4176 - Section 005 – Fall 2023

Instructor: Dr. Carl Ziegler        Email: Carl.Ziegler@sfasu.edu
Office: STEM Room 207L              Office Hours: MWF 1-3:00pm, or by appointment
Department: Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Engineering
Class Meetings: W 3 PM – 5 PM, STEM 207L

Course Description
This is a research experience course into the reduction and analysis of astronomical data from transiting exoplanet observations.

Text and Materials
The text for this class is openly available online. The main text is “A Practical Guide to Exoplanet Observing”, which is available at https://astrodennis.com/Guide.pdf
Students will also make use of AstroImageJ software to reduce photometric data. This software is available at https://www.astro.louisville.edu/software/astroimagej/

Course Requirements
Students will regularly meet with the course instructor to discuss and plan the ongoing research. Students will be expected to read background material and frequently communicate with the instructor the status of the research assignment.

Class Meetings
The instructor and students will meet frequently (typically weekly) at a mutually convenient time to discuss the status of the research.

Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7
Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Makeup work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Grading Policy
The final grade will be determined from the progress of the research throughout the semester and the level of time and effort put forth by the student.
Office Hours

I will be available to answer emails during office hours. I will also be on a Zoom meeting page during those times at:

https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/98740313546?pwd=UG50My8vT0RkZGdMd0JzeTI0RmJCQT09 (MW 1-3 pm)

I will also be available to meet in person at my office (STEM 207L) during this time. Meetings outside these times are available by email appointment.

Academic Integrity (4.1)
Please copy and paste the following information regarding Academic Integrity into your syllabus. In addition, you may include your own guidelines for academic integrity as appropriate.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health and Wellness
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041
Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Please Note: The syllabus may change at the discretion of the instructor. Notification of changes will be made through Brightspace.