Astr 150 Assignment 2: Moon phases (an exercise in pattern recognition)
due Thurs Jan 29, 2009

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. Write down the dates of every full moon for the coming year, 2009.

2. Count the number of days between each full moon. Is there a pattern? Describe the pattern. Calculate the average number of days between full moon phases. Does the time between full moon phases vary much from the average?

3. Suppose, in a given year, a full moon occurs on March 21. What would be the dates of the next two full moons?

4. If the moon phases occur in a regular fashion, then it would be logical to build a moon calendar. Does our society have any events whose timing is based upon lunar phases? If so, then give an example. Are there other societies on this Earth that follow a lunar calendar? If so, then give an example.

Requirements for a good assignment

- The assignment will be graded strictly, as expected for a university-level course. The assignment is graded out of 30 points.
- Have your name, SID, and a word count at the top of the paper. Use question-and-answer format when writing your assignment, do NOT hand in a run-on paragraph (50% penalty).
- Be typed, double-spaced, of maximum length 250 words. Assignments longer than 250 words will receive zero credit.
- Use quotations only to illustrate your point, not to make it. If you are unclear about this requirement, then speak with the instructor.
- Show completeness of information, conciseness of expression, have a logical development of ideas, and evidence of thought regarding the content.
- Be professional of presentation, e.g., no ragged ends, creases, or ink blobs on the paper.
- In all ways, the author should show pride in his/her work.