Astr 150 Assignment 8: phenomena of nature
due Thurs Mar 12, 2009

Word limit: none

Answer the following questions:

1. Do you think that a model of the universe should be a coherent explanation of it in all details, or is a model good enough if it explains all the observations, even if the model is not “unified” or internally consistent, like a clockwork mechanism? Points are awarded based upon how well you justify your response. Cite any references you use.

2. Construct a timeline from about the year 600 BCE (“before the common era”) to about the year 1 CE. Include on it 15 events or people related to ancient Greek astronomy. An example entry would be:

   Anaximander of Miletus, student of Thales, conceives the first geometrical model of the universe, introduces the concept of infinity (“apeiron”), and conveys the Babylonian gnomon into Greek science: 610 - 546 BCE

3. Extra credit question: one extra point for every event or person in excess of 15, to a maximum of 5 extra points.

Requirements for a good assignment

- The assignment must be completely original work. The assignment will be graded strictly, as expected for a university-level course. Points will be removed for poor grammar or spelling. The assignment is graded out of 30 points.
- At the top of your paper: have your name, SID, an assignment number or title, and a word count. Unless otherwise stated, use question-and-answer format when writing your assignment, do NOT hand in a run-on paragraph.
- Be typed, double-spaced, and two-sided. Assignments longer than the word limit will receive zero credit. If a diagram is required, it must be neatly drawn (use rulers, compasses) and completely labelled.
- 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.
- If you reference any written sources at all, then you must give a bibliographic entry. Internet references: give the full URL and the date you accessed it. URL domains .edu and .gov are acceptable, all other domains are suspect. A penalty will be applied for referencing an improper website.
- In all ways, the author should show pride in his/her work.