Astr 150 Assignment 9: summarizing ancient Greek science
due Thurs Mar 26, 2009

Word limit: 250

Answer the following questions:

1. Explain the Pythagorean concept of “harmony of the spheres”.
2. Define the word “aesthetic”, citing your references.
3. Argue that having a preconceived aesthetic about the universe, like the harmony of the spheres, was a great flaw in the scientific method of the ancient Greeks, and in fact was a central factor in their promotion of the false geocentric model of the universe.

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. 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 (50% penalty).
- 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.
- In all ways, the author should show pride in his/her work.