Observatory Visit
Astronomy 100
Prof. Menningen

Due: December 12, 2018

You will be required to visit the observatory on campus at least once during the semester (after it opens in mid-September). The student in charge will help you view at least 2 astronomical objects through the telescope, and will provide an observing report form (worth 30 points) that you will fill out, have signed by the student on duty, and return to me by December 12, 2018. This document could be handed to me, slid under my door, handed to the secretary, faxed (715-346-2944), or scanned and emailed to me (kmenning@uwsp.edu).

The observatory is normally open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 8:30 – 10 PM ONLY IF THE SKIES ARE CLEAR. If the skies are cloudy they will be closed and you will have to go another time. The observatory can be contacted to determine if it will be open by calling 715-346-2208. The announcement for the evening is usually not recorded until after 7:30 pm because they do not want to close unless absolutely necessary. There is a web site (http://cleardarksky.com/c/UWSPObWlkey.html?1) that may assist you in predicting if weather conditions are favorable (look for all blue colors for best viewing).

On many Monday nights there is a public planetarium show followed by a visit to the observatory if it is clear. You are welcome to participate in the planetarium show, and please show extra courtesy to any members of the public that join you at the observatory.

The observatory is located on the roof of the Science Building. Access to the observatory is obtained by using the southwest stairwell (it’s the one nearest the paper science area, at the corner of the building closest to the COPS and CNR buildings) in the Science Building and going to the fourth floor, room D402. It is usually very cold in the observatory at night because the dome is not heated, so please dress appropriately.

Please note that the weather in Stevens Point is unpredictable, so make sure to go as soon as possible in the semester when it is clear. If you wait until the last few weeks of class, it may be cloudy and you will be unable to complete your report.

Observatory web site: http://www.uwsp.edu/physastr/plan_obs/Pages/observatory.aspx