ASTRONOMY 320 Prof. M. Chriss

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE IMPORTANCE TAKING NOTES IN CLASS

**PLEASE NOTE: LAPTOPS, TABLETS, AND PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING THE CLASS LECTURE.**

*I cannot overemphasize the importance of taking good notes on the lectures in this class. IN FACT- to learn the material of this class, and to do well on the exams, you ABSOLUTELY MUST take good notes of each lecture. Your lecture notes will become your textbook in this class.*

Learning is a very personal experience. It requires your full involvement: LISTENING, LOOKING, THINKING, RESPONDING, ASKING:

• LISTENING- listen to the lecture, word for word, sentence by sentence, thought by thought.

• LOOKING- look at each PowerPoint slide, see what it depicts, understanding what it shows.

• THINKING- think about the ideas being presented… think fully and understand it.

• RESPONDING- respond vocally in class or in your mind, to each point made, to each question asked.

• ASKING- ask any and all questions that you have, and listen to other student’s questions (and answers) too.

Laptops do not help you in any of this! They are a form of transcribing but not of thinking. They all too often get in the way of what is important in class. The class requires your full attention; that is the way to understand and to learn. Laptops interfere with this. For all these reasons, they ARE NOT ALLOWED during class lectures.

So, how do you take good notes during a lecture? Here are my suggestions:

On the RIGHT SIDE you should write 1 of 2 things ONLY:

1. words that are spelled out or emphasized during the lecture (write it **when you hear them**, even if you are not at that point on the LEFT side of your page as yet).
2. summaries or things to note when you review your notes later on, and when you are studying for exams.

Write these items, more or less, next to what they refer to on the LEFT side.

On your blank note sheets, draw a vertical

line 1/3 from the right edge of the paper.

On the LEFT SIDE ONLY of your page, write the

lectures FULLY and COMPLETELY (as close to

word for word as possible) [here]