

Astronomy 120 Spring 2011
Leitner Observatory Observing Exercise
SECTION I: Pre-Assignment (“Lab Ticket”)

NAME _____ DATE _____

Read all of the instructions for this exercise and **complete the lab ticket** before coming up to the observatory on the night you’ve signed up for observing.

Location of the Leitner Family Observatory: 355 Prospect St., near the Betts House, just north of Edwards St.

Lab Ticket: Answer these questions and turn in your answers to a Teaching Assistant when you get to the observatory. You won’t be allowed to complete the observing exercise and your presence will not be counted if you don’t turn in your lab ticket at the beginning of the session.

Go to the Sky & Telescope interactive star chart web site here: <http://bit.ly/eoCdA7> (allow pop-ups if you are using Firefox), change the location and enter the zip code for New Haven (06511), set the country to USA, and enter the time zone for New Haven (Eastern Time, -5 hours), and check the “Daylight Savings Time” box if necessary. This will bring up a sky chart with the circle of the horizon (full of stars) on the right and “Location” and “Date & Time” boxes on the left. Change the date and time of the chart to the night of your observing session at 9pm.



1. Using the information on the interactive star chart, list the names of any planets above the horizon, and if the moon is up, describe its phase. Also list the constellations that the planets (and the moon, if applicable) are in front of (mouse over the middle of the constellations to see the names).

2. List the names of five bright stars that are above the horizon at 9pm on the night of your observing session.

3. How much more light does a 16-inch telescope collect compared to an 8-inch telescope? Explain your answer.