Syllabus: Physics 5393 – Fall 2007
COSMOLOGY

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. FN2.104

Instructor: Professor Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki, Office: FO2.716B
Email: mishak@utdallas.edu
url1: http://www.utdallas.edu/nsm/physics/faculty/ishak-boushaki.html
url2: http://www.utdallas.edu/~mishak
Office hours: TBD in class

Textbooks:
Introduction to Cosmology by Barbara Ryden.
Cosmology and particle astrophysics, second edition, by Lars Bergstrom and Ariel Edgar
(Also, notes will be given in class for many chapters)

Other books:
Introductory Astronomy and Astrophysics (Last 6 chapters), 4th edition, Zeilik and Gregory
An Introduction to Cosmology - J. V. Narlikar
Cosmological Physics (Cambridge Astrophysics S.), John A. Peacock (advanced)
Modern Cosmology, Scott Dodelson (advanced)
An Introduction to Modern Cosmology, Andrew Liddle (advanced)
Large-Scale Structure of the Universe, James Peebles (advanced)
For relativity: Relativity: Special, General, and Cosmological. Wolfgang Rindler
Introducing Einstein's Relativity, Ray d'Inverno

Online resources:
http://science.hq.nasa.gov/universe/index.html
http://science.hq.nasa.gov/universe/science/index.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_cosmology
http://nedwww.ipac.caltech.edu/level5/
http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/astro/astcon.html#astcon

Course general description: The course is an overview of contemporary cosmology including: cosmological models of the universe and their parameters; large scale structure of the universe; dark matter; cosmological probes and techniques such as gravitational lensing, cosmic microwave background radiation, and supernova searches; very early stages of the universe; dark energy and recent cosmic acceleration.

Grading: The course is intended for physics graduate students and advanced undergraduate students. There are no prerequisite courses. Student evaluation will be based on 4 homework assignments and a small project. The goal of the small project is to allow students to learn more about a topic of their choice in cosmology. The small project can be chosen by the student from one of the following:

i) A publication reading project: The student reads one introductory publication on a topic of their choice in cosmology (a list of various publications will be provided). The student will then write a short summary and give a short presentation about the publication. (This format is usually very popular in this course.)

ii) A numerical or analytical project in cosmology (a list of various small projects will be provided). For example, some projects will involve writing a simple program or adapting an existing code from the numerical recipes book in order to solve a known differential equation or known integral of interest to cosmology. Other projects will be semi-analytical and will involve the use of Mathematica, Maple, or Mathlab in order to solve semi-analytically (algebraic computing) some equations of interests to cosmology.

Online web page for the course: a web page for the course will be maintained at http://www.utdallas.edu/~mishak/courses/cosmology. Announcements and updates will be posted there

on a regular basis. As the lecture notes will be posted weekly at the library e-reserve. This web page will basically serve for messages, news, and schedule updates

Tentative table of content for the course

Topic	
Introduction to physical cosmology	
The physical content of the universe. The scale of distance.	
A simple introduction to General Relativity without tensor calculus: Principles of relativity. Curvature. Metrics.	
Cosmological principles and the standard Lemaitre-Friedmann-Robertson-Walker metric	
The standard cosmological model. Friedman equations. Expansion of the universe. Cosmological fluids.	
Cosmological distances, redshift, horizons. Supernova type Ia as distance indicators (cosmological probe I)	
Cosmological parameters. Definitions. Measurements.	
Dark Matter	
The formation of structures in the universe and growth rate of large scale structure.	
The cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) (cosmological probe II)	
The acceleration of the expansion of the universe and dark energy	
Gravitational Lensing: strong regime, weak regime. (Cosmological probe III)	
The very early stages of the universe. The Big Bang. Chronology. Primordial Nucleosynthesis (cosmological probe IV)	
The very early stages of the universe. Inflation, cyclic universe	

Course & Instructor Policies
(make-up exams, extra credit, late work, special assignments, class attendance, classroom citizenship, etc.)

Cell phones: Please do not have cell phones ring in class.

Getting up and leaving during class: If you have a legitimate reason to leave during class, sit by the door to minimize the class disruption

Laptops: If you really need a laptop to take notes for the class than you must sit in the last row so you don't disturb other students. Using Laptops for other purposes during class is not allowed.

Exams: Students must bring with them a valid picture ID to the exam. Scientific calculators that have trig functions will be allowed in the exam but graphing calculators and programmable calculators will not be allowed. Makeup exams will be offered only in the case of very good and documented medical reasons (or very exceptional and documented personal reasons.) All exams will be closed book and a formula sheet will be provided with the exam. Any student involved in cheating will be reported to the Dean and prosecuted.

Field Trip Policies
Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the deal will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.