Reading Assignment: Chapters 1, 2, 3 & Appendix A

Important Note: The *Cosmic Perspective* contains “Problems,” “Review Questions,” and “Discussion Questions.” Make sure you do the ones indicated (usually we do the “Problems”).

Chapter 1 problems: Problems 1, 2, 4

Chapter 2 problems: Problems 2, 4

Other Problems:

1. What is the fastest possible communication we can have with Australia, assuming it is exactly on the opposite side of the Earth and that we cannot communicate through the Earth? Would you notice such a delay? What is the distance in light-seconds?

2. The waning quarter moon is rising. About what time is it?

3. *Mission to another Stellar System:* In order to pursue our class theme, *Mission to Another Stellar System,* we need to decide on a star to visit. I argue that the best candidate is the nearest stellar system with a star similar to our own Sun. Look at table D.1 in your book, look up the meaning of spectral types and luminosity, and choose a stellar system to visit. Write a paragraph or two explaining your choice, how long it would take to communicate with explorers in that stellar system and how long it would take to reach this system.