

Physics 174
Homework A - Due 15 December

27 September, 2006

The Clinton B. Ford Observatory

This homework is optional. It can be used to replace your lowest homework grade, subject to further rules which will be explained in class.

Your assignment is to visit the Ford Observatory during one of the Open House sessions. These typically occur once a month, and of course are subject to sky conditions. The next Open House is scheduled for Friday, 29 September.

See the Observatory website for more details:

<http://www.ithaca.edu/briotta/observatory/>

Do not drive or walk to the observatory yourself. Typically, a shuttle bus will run about every 20-30 minutes from a pick-up site on the Ithaca College campus. The current pick-up site is in front of Textor Hall, but with the construction, the site may relocate to Park Hall (or some other location).

At the observatory, **show the host your ID** and make sure that he or she adds your name to the list of Physics 174 students attending. In addition, you will need to submit a list of the objects you observed along with a brief description (or drawing) of them. Be aware that a smaller telescope may be set up outside the observatory dome, which will give you the opportunity to see more objects.

Final note: **Dress warmly.** Standing around in the cold looking through a telescope can be downright uncomfortable unless you dress properly. A safe rule of thumb is to dress as though the temperature is 15-20 degrees colder than it really will be. Hat and gloves are always a good idea. Students overheard complaining about the cold will be fed to the wild animals which inhabit the woods near the observatory.