

Assignments

Week 1, beginning Wednesday, 1/14/2009:

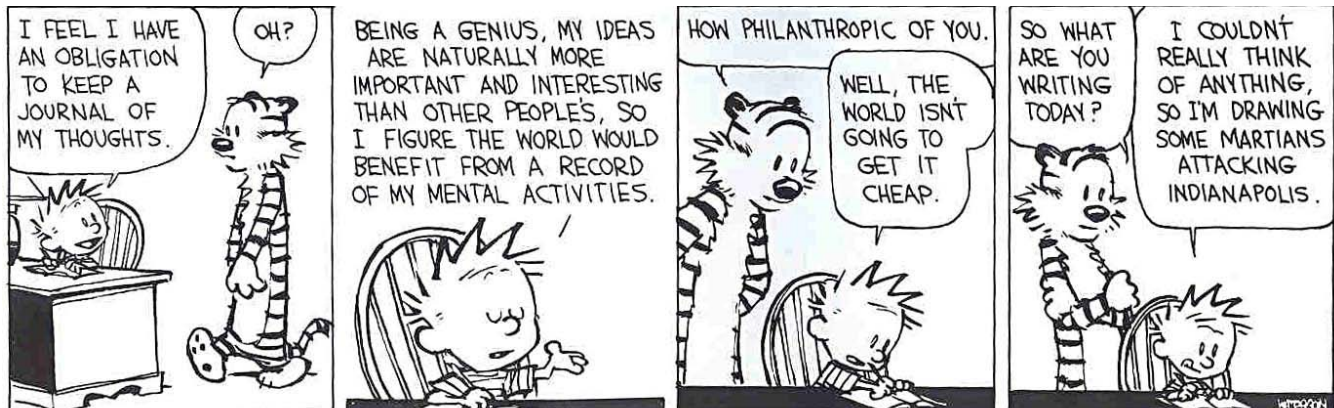
Wednesday:

- We'll discuss the syllabus and the structure and goals of the course.
- You'll do a calculation at the end of the syllabus to determine if you're giving yourself enough time to succeed or if you're setting yourself up to be so pressured by work, family and COA commitments that at some point in the semester you, the beautiful butterfly ready to fly about the garden of education -- if you're uncomfortable with this metaphor, replace it with a powerful cat ready to explore educational savannahs -- will be squished like a bug under the heavy boot of too-many-responsibilities.
- In the remaining time, we'll broadly discuss interesting astronomical issues and the organization of *Discovering the Universe*.

Next week is momentous. On Monday, a holiday, we'll celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. And then on Tuesday, January 20, Barack Hussein Obama will become our 44th president. Remember to celebrate MLK's day by reflecting on his accomplishments. While Tuesday isn't a holiday, there'll be lots of inauguration history to follow on the news.

Homework due next Wednesday:

1. Register for the class if you haven't already.
2. Purchase and bring to class *Discovering the Universe*, Edmund's *Star and Planet Locator*, a composition book that you will use for your journal, and a simple scientific calculator.
3. Complete your first quiz by going to the site listed above, www.Badtke.com or www.QCounty.com, by following the link to College of Alameda classes and Spring 2009. Select the link to your class and follow the link to First Visit. Follow the directions you'll find there to send me an email. *Don't forget to include your name and your class, Astronomy 1!*
4. Read Chapter 1, "Discovering the Night Sky," sections 1-1 through 1-13, pages 4 to 30, and while you're reading address in your journals the [chapter study questions](#), which I'll hand out and [which are available online](#). Expect a brief quiz on this material.
5. I'll also give you a special quiz on astronomical ideas to see what you may already know. If you take this quiz, you'll get 100%, since I don't expect you to know many of the answers. I'll give you the same quiz at the end of the semester, when, I expect, you'll know most if not all of the answers.



"Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson.