Assignment: There are three this assignment,
(1) I want you to write a medium-length report (4-6 pages + title page, figures, and references) on a particular topic in astrophysics. Try to choose something that interests you. Below I have listed some suggested topics, but you can choose another as long as I approve of it. I would like it to be on something that we have not covered thoroughly in class, such as star clusters, Milky Way Galaxy, extragalactic astronomy, or cosmology. You should have your topic approved by me before you go too far in working on it.
(2) You are to then make a class presentation on this topic.
(3) Finally, I want you to give me 3 test questions based on your presentation. Two should be short answer and one quantitative. Also list any relevant pages in the text for your topic.

References: You should use at least four references. One of these may be your textbook. Another can be the Encyclopedia of Astronomy & Astrophysics, which is very current and is available in the library and online: http://www.ency-astro.com/

Popular-level magazines in the library that you might use are Sky & Telescope, Astronomy, Mercury, and Scientific American. We also have research journals there, should you want to look at a research article to get a flavor of what one of these would look like. I would also suggest that you look online to see if you can find some current information, such as through the Hubble Space Telescope web site at http://hubblesite.org/

Time Schedule:
- April 3 (Monday): Submit to me for approval the topic you have chosen on which to report, and a very brief reason why you chose this topic. (This can be done by e-mail.) (If you have a second choice, then it might be useful to let me know that incase 2 choose the same topic.)
- April 10 (Monday): Submit a detailed outline of your paper, including at least three references. I will then give you feedback. (This can be done by e-mail.)
- April 24 (Monday): Paper due.
- April 25 (Tuesday): 3 questions due, so I can compile and print them for class the next day.
- April 26 (Wed) and April 28 (Friday): Class Presentations 10:10-11:00 & [on to 11:15? – we need more than just the class time] You will have 8 min. for a short presentation on your topic, plus about 2 min. for questions. Include 3-4 transparencies. If you want to use Powerpoint that is fine, but then either get it to me the day before or bring it on a CD.

Topics Chosen:
Micah B. - Star Clusters
Drew D. - What Does the Universe Look Like *
Joel D. - Black Holes in Galaxy Centers
Ansel H. - Obler’s Paradox
Matt J. - Icy Moons
Tom K. - Large-Scale Structure of the Universe
Jeff M. - Gamma-Ray Bursts
Tami M. - Earth-like Planets
Callista S. - Quasars *
Jason S. - An Accelerating Universe