

Einstein's Universe

Assessment Component

4 ACE Credits are available for 'Einstein's Universe'. Any student who wishes to submit work for assessment should complete an essay, of 750 – 1000 words, on a topic related to the subject of the course, and submit their essay (in either hardcopy or electronic form) to **Dr Martin Hendry** before **10th March 2007**.

The aim of the essay should be to describe in reasonable depth a topic relevant to the course (i.e. rather than trying to write a 1000 word summary of the whole course). The topic could be something which concentrates solely on the scientific aspects of the course, or could instead comment on the wider cultural impact of Einstein's work.

Students might choose to discuss, for example:

- Their views on the wider cultural reasons why Einstein is such a well-known popular icon
- The 'urban myths' about Einstein's early years, and how they compare with the reality
- Einstein's relationship with Germany, and how it influenced his politics and philosophy
- Experimental tests of Einstein's special and general theory of relativity
- Paradoxes of relativity, and how they are resolved
- What would happen to an astronaut travelling into a black hole
- The search for gravitational waves
- Einstein's part in the early development of Quantum Physics
- Whether Einstein's cosmological constant really was his 'greatest blunder'
- How our search for a theory of quantum gravity has developed since Einstein's time

Students should remember to cite any reference books, articles or websites consulted.

Anyone planning to submit work for assessment is advised to select an essay topic and title no later than **February 25th**, and advise Dr Hendry (martin@astro.gla.ac.uk). Dr Hendry will also be happy to offer comments on a plan, or outline, of the essay – should that be helpful.

Martin Hendry
February 2008