

Hubble Vision

Assessment Component

4 ACE Credits are available for 'Hubble Vision'. 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 (preferably in electronic form) to **Dr Martin Hendry** before the end of the course.

The aim of the essay should be to describe in reasonable depth a topic relevant to the course. Example topics include:

- The history of optical telescopes, and how HST fits into that history: i.e. what are the specific advantages of placing an optical telescope above the atmosphere?
- The design of the HST, the optical defects which were discovered after its launch and how these were corrected.
- Some of the specific instrumentation that has been installed onboard HST: how this instrumentation works and some examples of the types of object it has been used to observe.
- The specific contribution which HST has made to our understanding of particular topics in astrophysics, such as: solar system exploration; stellar birth and evolution; finding and characterising extra-solar planets; galaxy formation; gravitational lensing; cosmology.
- Current and future plans for space telescopes, in the optical and across the electromagnetic spectrum
- HST science as an art form: the remarkable success of 'coffee table' books, postcards, posters and T-shirts presenting and describing HST images. Why do the public love HST images so much?

Any other topics that students consider appropriate may be chosen, although students are advised to consult Dr Hendry first if they are unsure about the relevance of their choice.

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

Martin Hendry
February 2009