Think of this as a mid-term assessment – but without the quantitative assessment part. Instead, it is an opportunity for review and reinforcement of learning, as well as for getting a head start on activities at the end of the term.

I will grade you based on my perception of your effort as being at a higher, sufficient, or lower level relative to my expectations. These grades would be used only to split close calls at the end, e.g. between an A− and B+.

Read through your class notes. Really, do this. Start at the beginning and read all the way through the last lecture - finishing up our discussion of interstellar dust. You may also find the slides I’ve shown in class and posted on the course website useful material.

**Task 1:** Summarize in 1 page of text what you have learned, globally and specifically about the ISM. Which concept surprised you the most?

**Task 2:** Make a list of 5 concepts that you feel you do not grasp as well as you think you should. Tell me what you “get” of the concept, then also describe what aspects of it are still difficult to understand. Not to worry, there is no fishing going on here for final exam topics. I just want to know which areas have been communicated less well through the lectures, homeworks, and text reading. Feel free to discuss any aspects of the material among the group, but please carry out the assignment on your own without forming some sort of class consensus on the mysterious.

**Task 3:** Pick 1 of these 5 items and do some extra reading in the textbooks or on the internet to figure it out. Explain the concept from start to finish, i.e. beginning at some common point of departure and progressing through the parts you didn’t understand before. Use mostly words, and equations as necessary, in your articulation.

**Task 4:** Pick the topic and paper that you will summarize for the class in an oral presentation during the last week of class. Changes will be permitted, but it is time to get going. It will take you some effort to understand your paper, so do get started in order to allow time for you to change your mind at least once. Guidance on what I am looking for in these presentations, along with some possible papers, can be found in the link from the course syllabus (see last week). Please discuss with Kaew and/or me if you want more advice.