Observing Targets (September 2026)

Naked-Eye Visible

- The Moon (*mostly towards the end of the course*)
- Saturn (*rising around 9pm during our class)*
- Venus (*only visible right after sunset*)
- Mizar + Alcor
- Alberio
- Orion Nebula (M42; *Late night/early morning only*)
- Pleiades (M45; *later night only*)
- Epsilon Lyrae (“The Double-Double”)
- Alpha Ursae Minoris (“Polaris”)
- Algol (“The Demon Star”)

Not Naked-Eye Visible, but Easy to See Through a Telescope Once you Find It

- M13 (“Hercules Cluster”; Globular Cluster)
- Ring Nebula (M57)
- The Andromeda Galaxy (M31) and its satellites (M32 & M110)
- “Double Cluster” (NGC 869 + NGC 884)
- M11 (“Wild Duck”; Open Cluster)
- M15 (Globular Cluster)
- M18 (Open Cluster)
- M23 (Open Cluster)
- T Lyrae (Carbon Star)
- M8 (“Lagoon Nebula”)
- M20 (“Trifid Nebula”)
- NGC 457 (the “ET Cluster”; make sure to look at this at low power/large field)

More Challenging to see Through a Telescope

- “The Dumbbell Nebula” (M27)
- M17 (Emission Nebula and Open Cluster)
- M33 (“Triangulum Galaxy”)
- M51 (“Whirlpool Galaxy”)
- M81 + M82 (Galaxies)