- 1. Age of Reason
  - a. Nicolaus Copernicus 1473-1543
    - i. Commenteriolus manuscript circulated from 1512
      - 1. unpublished
      - 2. Heliocentric hypothesis
    - ii. 'On the Revolutions of the Planets' published year of his death
      - 1. incorporated some epicycles to account for lack of perfect agreement with perfectly circular orbits around Sun (did not consider ellipse shape of orbits)
      - publisher's preface declared it 'hypothesis' to predict location of planets
      - 3. not much notice taken by Church at that time
      - 4. Galileo began "Copernican Crusade" in early 1600's that lead to it being banned from 1632-1835 by Catholic Church
  - b. Tycho Brahe 1546-1601 Danish astronomer
    - i. Observations very exact thorough
      - 1. 1572 Supernova in Cassiopeia
      - 2. Comet in 1577 convinced him Aristotle's hypothesis was wrong celestial sphere not solid and unchanging
    - ii. "great quadrant" and corrections for refraction of atmosphere allowed him to plot very accurately
      - 1. calculated Earth's axial tilt to 1/100 of degree
      - 2. tropical year length to one second accuracy
    - iii. rejected Ptolemaic system, and Copernican system
      - 1. Tychonian model
        - a. Sun orbits Earth
        - b. All other planets orbit Sun
        - c. Earth is fixed-there is no stellar parallax
    - iv. Took on assistant Johannes Kepler in 1600
  - c. Johannes Kepler 1571-1630
    - i. Used Tycho's observations to formulate laws of planetary motion
      - 1. Planets move in elliptical orbits around Sun
      - 2. Planets sweep equal area in equal time period
      - distances of planets to Sun are proportional to period of orbit around Sun (p<sup>2</sup>=d<sup>3</sup>)
    - ii. fanatic about finding 'causes' for natural observations—hindered him at times
    - iii. Vigorous supporter of Galileo's observations of the moons of Jupiter

- d. Galileo Galilei 1564-1642
  - i. Heard about lenses being used to magnify objects
    - 1. created his own telescopes to 30 power—not the inventor!
    - 2. looked at planets and Sun
  - ii. Planetary observations
    - 1. discovered planets are discs, not points
    - 2. found Jupiter has moons
      - a. implication that Earth not the only center of orbit
      - b. disputes the argument that if Earth orbits Sun, then Moon would be left behind
    - 3. Venus has phases, and this supports heliocentric hypothesis also. He noticed that when Venus is full, it appears smallest, because it is farther away than when it is crescent
    - 4. Moon surface is cratered and mountainous
    - 5. Sun has sunspots, that move around on Sun's surface
  - iii. *Dialogue of the Great World Systems* published in 1630, banned by Church, he was house-arrested for the rest of his life—exonerated in 1992
- e. Isaac Newton 1642-1727
  - i. Formulated and tested the Law of Universal Gravitation—every body in the universe attracts every other body with a force proportional to their masses, and inversely proportional to the distance between them
  - ii. Accounted for why Kepler's laws worked
  - iii. Also explains perturbations of orbits due to other bodies
- f. Foucault's pendulum proved that Earth rotates on axis
  - i. Pendulum continues to swing in same plane unless acted upon by outside influence
  - ii. Pendulum set into motion changes apparent position over full day period
  - iii. It doesn't really swing in a changing plane, Earth is rotating under it.

## 2. Solar System

- a. Sun is the center
- b. Planets have elliptical orbits around Sun
- c. Orbits function of inertia and gravity
- 3. Constellations
  - a. Apparent groups of stars, actually unrelated
  - b. 88 recognized divide sky into units to identify areas—such as Orion
  - c. Many bright stars have proper names—Sirius, Arcturus brightest in northern sky
- 4. Position in sky also divided by geometry: celestial poles and equator extended from Earth's poles and equator
  - a. declination-from the equator, in degrees N and S
  - b. right ascension—rising from where Sun crosses celestial equator on the March equinox, in hours of Earth turning

- 5. Motion of Earth
  - a. Rotation—turns on axis one complete rotation about 24 hours
    - i. Turn on axis pointing at Polaris—Big Dipper 'rotates' around Polaris daily
    - ii. Mean solar day—for Sun to get to High Noon again
    - iii. Sidereal day—for star to get to same sky position: about four minutes less than mean solar day
    - iv. Astronomical observatories use sidereal day
  - b. Revolution—orbit around Sun
    - i. Average of 150 million km from Sun
      - 1. Perihelion—147 million km; Occurs about January 3
      - 2. Aphelion—152 million km; Occurs about July 4
      - 3. This is a result of Earth's elliptical orbit around Sun, which varies from closest to a circle to about 5% from a circle in a 100,000 year cycle
    - ii. Earth's axis of rotation is inclined to our orbital plane around Sun
      - 1. Results in the plane of the ecliptic at  $23.5^{\circ}$  angle to celestial equator
      - 2. Tilt of Earth's axis results in seasons we have
        - a. rotation with north pole facing Sun results in greater heating of northern hemisphere
        - b. rotation with south pole facing Sun results in less heating of northern hemisphere
        - c. seasons are NOT the result of Earth being closer to Sun (notice distance vs. northern hemisphere seasons)
      - 3. Sun appears to cross celestial equator on the Equinox: ~22 March and September
      - 4. Sun furthest from celestial equator  $(23.5^{\circ})$  on the Solstice: ~ 21 June and December
    - iii. Sun appears to be displaced against star backdrop
      - 1. about 1 degree/day
      - 2. path through stars called ECLIPTIC
      - 3. planets and moon have orbits in about same plane of Earth around Sun, so they travel near the ecliptic also
  - c. Precession is the wobble of Earth's axial tilt
    - i. Slowly changing position in the sky—full circle 28,000 years
      - 1. as axis changes position, it will bring seasonal change to differing coincidence with perihelion and aphelion
      - 2. in 14,000 years, June solstice will occur nearer to perihelion, warming northern hemisphere more
    - ii. Angle varies a slight amount also, between 21.5° and 24.5°—in a 41,000 year cycle.
    - iii. These Earth-Sun variations can affect overall Earth temperature: see <u>http://www.homepage.montana.edu/~geol445/hyperglac/time1/milankov.htm</u> for a detailed explanation and competing hypotheses of Earth's reaction to these variations

- 6. Motions of the Earth-Moon system
  - a. Moon has an elliptical orbit around Earth
    - i. 6% variation in distance throughout its cycle-it is on average 384,401 km
    - ii. Orbit accounts for phases of Moon, and eclipses of Moon and Sun
  - b. Phases of Moon
    - i. New→crescent→1/4 Moon→Full→3/4 Moon→crescent→New
    - ii. Waxing for two weeks: greater amount illuminated each night
    - iii. Waning for two weeks: lesser amount illuminated each night
    - iv. Sunlight is reflected off of Moon's surface
      - 1. when Moon is opposite Sun, it is a full disc
      - 2. when Moon is between Earth and Sun, it is a crescent, or not illuminated (New)
      - 3. a Full Moon rises at sunset, and sets at sunrise, as a result of it orbital position to be shown as Full
  - c. Lunar Motions
    - i. It takes Moon 29 ½ days to come to the same position relative to the Sun-'Synodic Month': apparent period lengthened due to Earth's orbit of Sun
    - ii. However since Earth-Moon system has progressed 1/12 of the way around the Sun orbit, the period for Moon to go exactly all the way around Earth needs to be compared to a distant star.
      - 1. it takes 27  $^{1}/_{3}$  days to go around Earth
      - 2. 'sidereal month'
      - 3. Moon also rotates on its axis, once every 27  $^{1}/_{3}$  days
        - a. The same side of Moon always faces Earth
        - b. Days and nights last two weeks on Moon
        - c. Lack of moisture and atmosphere allow temperatures to vary widely during these extraordinarily long days and nights
          - i.  $127^{\circ}$  C in day
          - ii. -173° in night
  - d. Eclipses—shadow effects of Moon and Earth
    - i. Moon's orbit is inclined about 5° to Earth's orbit around Sun
    - ii. Lunar eclipse occurs when Earth's shadow falls on Moon
      - 1. Earth is between Sun and Moon
      - 2. occurs only when Moon is full
      - 3. Moon is still visible because of some bending of light around Earth
    - iii. Solar eclipse occurs when Moon's shadow falls upon Earth
      - 1. Moon is between Earth and Sun
        - 2. only occurs when Moon is new
        - 3. Total eclipse is within the 275 km wide umbra
          - a. Lasts at most for 7 minutes in any area
          - b. Total eclipses are rare: next one in August 2017
        - 4. partial eclipse over larger area in penumbra
    - iv. Earth usually 'misses' Moon's shadow, so on average, there are four eclipses per year: two lunar, and two solar

- 7. Moon
  - a. Earth's only natural satellite
    - i. Large in reference to Earth, compared to other natural satellites of other planets
      - 1. about ¼ of Earth's diameter
      - 2. 3475 km
    - ii. Density similar to Earth's mantle material, small iron core
  - b. Surface—not protected by atmosphere
    - i. Craters
      - 1. impact of meteoroids
        - a. ejecta
        - b. rays
      - 2. more common in early part of Moon's history
    - ii. lunar highlands-most of Moon's surface, all of back side
      - 1. original surface: intensely cratered
      - 2. low-iron content compared to maria
    - iii. maria—plural of mare
      - 1. high iron content lowlands
      - 2. younger than lunar highlands
      - 3. created by large asteroid impact
        - a. caused sub-crustal melting and basalt flows
        - b. similar to Columbia Plateau basalts
    - iv. lunar regolith
      - 1. soil-like surface produced by numerous meteoroid impacts
      - 2. fine dust, glass beads, breccia, igneous rock
- 8. Lunar history
  - a. Earth impacted by large asteroid about 4.5 billion years ago
    - i. Caused part of Earth to be ejected into orbit around Earth
    - ii. Dust accreted into lunar body
      - 1. Gravitational contraction caused melting and formation of crust, mantle and core.
      - 2. original surface was the present lunar highlands
  - b. Maria basins formed 3.8 to 3.2 billion years ago by asteroid impact
  - c. Continued bombardment created craters, including the 'rayed craters' such as the Copernican crater