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Transitional rules about the course evaluations from the Department of Astronomy during the COVID19 crisis

The Rectorate of the University of Geneva has issued directives and recommendations to insure the continuation of teaching and exams remotely (on line) for the current semester spring 2020. These provide the framework for the functioning and rules of teaching from our Department. The institutional information is available here <https://www.unige.ch/coronavirus/en/etudiant-es/> and should be consulted by all students.

Exam sessions and registration:

The may/ june 2020 and aug/sept 2020 examination sessions are maintained. Registration, announcements of the schedule etc. are done by the « Secretariat des Etudiants », as usual.

Given the context of the crisis, special conditions regarding failed exams have been decided by the Rectorate. Most importantly, failed exams during the may/june 2020 session will not count. Further details under « Examinations » on <https://www.unige.ch/coronavirus/en/etudiant-es/>.

Exam modalities:

All exams for courses from our Department (for Master in Astrophysics students and PhD students) will be **oral** exams, which will be done remotely using Zoom with the video camera ON. The camera is mandatory to identify the student. The students will be asked to identify themselves with their student or other ID card.

The format of the oral exams will be:

- the typical duration is 30 - 40 min (including preparation), up to a maximum of 60 min
- the exact format (type + duration of preparation etc.) will be communicated by each professor
- each exam will be with 2 (or exceptionally more) examiners

Required devices and technicalities for the exams:

Each student is required to have access to the following devices:

- a working computer (or similar) with a sufficient internet connection, working camera and audio system
- a device allowing to scan documents/take pictures (e.g. a smartphone is ok)
- the Zoom software installed and working on their computer
- access to the moodle.unige platform
- access to the unige email

If needed, technical and financial help can be offered by the Department and University. Please contact the student counsellor before 21 may 2020.

Students confined in other time zones need to take the exam at the time scheduled in Switzerland.

We plan to organise a test or 'mock exam' for the students and professors before the exam session. The students will also be informed in due time about the procedure to follow in case of a major technical problem during the exam.

Other modes of evaluation:

For two courses (14A063 = Observations, data acquisition, data analysis, and 14A901 TP = Astrophysics Labs II) the evaluation is based on completion of the modules (14A063) and the final written report (14A901), as announced originally.

August/september 2020 exam session:

Exams which need to be repeated (from the january or may/june 2020 sessions) will take place during the 'rattrapage' session between 24 aug - 4 sept, 2020. The modalities of the exams will be identical to those in the may/june 2020 session, i.e. only oral exams.

The exams may take place on-site (in the Department) or remotely (on line), depending on the situation. On line exams will be authorized should e.g. the students not be able to be on site during the session.

Cheating and plagiarism

The institution assumes that the students will observe the code of honor and good practices during the exams, implicitly linked to the ethical charter of UNIGE ([Charte Ethique de l'UNIGE](#)). Any attempt to cheat or plagiarize, discovered in the limit of our technical means of checking, will be reported to the Commission of the Faculty of Science and processed as any attempt to cheat during an on-site exam.

Further information

A list of frequently-asked-questions (FAQ) is available (in French and english) here <https://www.unige.ch/sciences/en/espaceetudiant/secretariatetudiants/covid-19-faq-concernant-les-etudes-et-les-examens/>

I ensure you that the University, Faculty, our Department and it's teachers/professors do all their best to assure a smooth continuation and completion of your studies in this special period. For any issues and questions please contact the student advisor (signatory), daniel.schaerer@unige.ch.

Daniel Schaerer
Sauverny/Gex, 8 may 2020