

## **MLSC 550: Spring 2019**

### **Observing Project 1: The Position of the Rising/Setting Sun**

Record the position and time of the Sun rise or Sun set over the course of the class. The goal is to see if and how the Sun's position changes over the course of the class, so you will need to make your observations from the same location each time you observe so you can reference the position of the rising/setting Sun to specific landmarks. You can sketch the horizon that you are using and then note the time and location of the Sun when it rises/sets on each time you observe. You can also use photography if you prefer. Begin your observations as soon as possible and continue observing through March 7, 2019. You should endeavor to obtain at least two observations per week, and of course more frequent observations are fine.

Your report for this project will be due on the last class meeting. Your report should present your observations, analysis, and conclusions in an organized flowing narrative. It is generally best to have science reports organized into sections that include an introduction, a description of the observations (including your methods and the actual observations you made), a description of any analysis you have done, a discussion section where you describe what your observations show and how they fit into our current understanding, and lastly a short conclusions section. We will discuss this more as the semester goes on, and this will be the second lab report due, so you will get some feedback on your first turned in report before this one is due. In your report you should state whether the position and time of the sunrise/sunset changed through the semester. If it does change, you should indicate by how much it changed, whether it was changing at a constant rate or if the rate of change varies. You should also describe how your observations either agree or disagree with predictions our current understanding of the solar system would give for this type of observation.