Due December 2, 2010

Write a 5-6 page paper on the important processes in the near space environment of the planet/moon of your choice other than the Earth. This means the exosphere and above for of a planet /moon with a thin atmosphere, or the ionosphere and above of a planet/moon with a thick atmosphere. Discuss how these processes combine with the inherent characteristics of the planet/moon, such as the composition, distance from the Sun/star, or location within a planet's magnetosphere, to make the system unique and/or of scientific interest.

Use 1.5 spacing, 10-12 pt font, and one inch margins. Figures are allowed and encouraged but they can not constitute more than 1 full page of the paper and make sure you cite the source of the figure. You must use at least three refereed journal articles as sources of information (e.g. from Journal of Geophysical Research, Astrophysical Journal, Science). You can use (reputable) web sites for additional information; just make sure you cite them like a regular reference. Please list your reference in your bibliography according to the following style:

Author #1, Author #2, "Paper Title", *Journal Name, vol.*, (no.), pages, year

Some web sites to help you get started are:

http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/index.cfm
http://www.nineplanets.org
http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar_system/planets/planets_index.html

Your paper will be graded on scientific accuracy, the clarity of your explanations/discussion, and grammar. You will also give a 12 minute presentation in class, on Dec. 2nd or 7th, on the material.