JHAF X CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

ASTROPHOT

HOW TO:

1) MOUNT YOUR CAMERA ON A TRIPOD, CHECKING THAT IT IS STABLE AND SECURE. (THIS CAN BE ANY TYPE OF CAMERA, BUT A DSLR IS PREFERRED!)

2) SET YOUR CAMERA TO THE FOLLOWING SETTINGS:

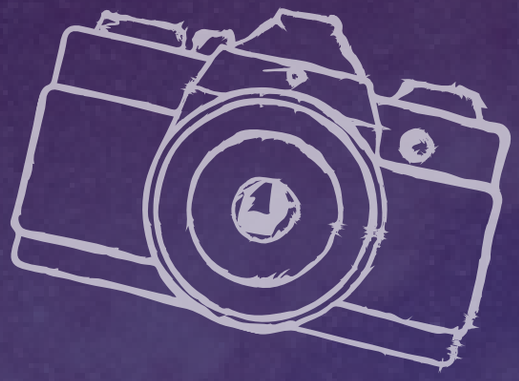
- MANUAL OR BULB MODE
- BALANCE IN DAYLIGHT OR AUTO
- EXPOSURE LENGTH OF 15-30 SECONDS (A LONGER EXPOSURE LETS IN MORE LIGHT, BUT TOO LONG LEADS TO STAR TRAILS)
- APERTURE BETWEEN F/2.8 - F/4 (A SMALLER NUMBER IS A BIGGER APERTURE, WHICH ALLOWS MORE LIGHT INTO THE LENS AND CREATES BRIGHTER IMAGES)
- IMAGE FORMAT RAW
- ISO 400-1600 (THIS MAKES THE FILM MORE SENSITIVE TO LOW LIGHT -- TOO HIGH AND THE IMAGE WILL BE GRAINY)

3) USING MANUAL FOCUS, FOCUS ON THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN VIEW.

4) SNAP YOUR SHOT!

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OGRAPHY



TOP TIPS!

- AVOID TOUCHING THE CAMERA DURING LONG-EXPOSURE SHOTS. YOU CAN DO THIS BY USING A REMOTE CONTROL, OR A CAMERA DELAY TIMER.
- SHOOT IN CLEAR SKIES WITH AS LITTLE MOONLIGHT AS POSSIBLE
- PUT AWAY ANY LIGHT SOURCE (PHONES, TORCHLIGHTS ETC). IF REALLY NECESSARY, USE RED LIGHT BY COVERING THE TORCHLIGHT WITH A RED FILM/CLOTH.
- TAKE MULTIPLE SHOTS AND STACK THEM TOGETHER USING SOFTWARE LIKE PHOTOSHOP OR LIGHTROOM TO IMPROVE THE SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO. THIS WILL ALSO ALLOW YOU TO BRIGHTEN THE IMAGE TO SEE MORE FEATURES!