EAS 171
Astronomy and Meteorology
Objective Sheet: The Solar System

Vocabulary:

- asteroids
- comets
- meteoroid
- meteorite
- terrestrial planets
- Jovian planets
- escape velocity
- meteor shower
- greenhouse effect
- coma
- solar system
- interplanetary medium

Objectives:

1. Classify the planets according to inferior, superior, inner, outer, terrestrial, and Jovian.
2. Outline the differences between terrestrial and Jovian planets.
3. List the visible differences to an Earth-bound observer between a planet and a star.
4. State the relationship between orbital velocity and the planet's distance from the Sun.
5. Describe the characteristics of a comet as it approaches and recedes from the Sun.
6. Explain the utilization of the parameters of distance, size, and mass in the determination of the other physical characteristics of the planets.
7. Describe the atmosphere and weather of Venus and Mars.
8. Account for the special interest in Mars by both laymen and scientists.
9. Explain the basis for the planets' nicknames (i.e. Venus: The Veiled Planet; Mars: The Red Planet; Pluto: Planet X).
10. List the prominent features and peculiarities of each planet.