

Astronomy 2037: Life in the Universe

Lecture Location: Weimer Hall 1064

**Lecture Times: Tuesdays 1:55PM – 2:45PM (7), Thursdays
1:55 – 2:45 (7) and 3:00 – 3:50PM (8)**

Instructor: Dr. Paul Sell
Office: Bryant Space Sciences Center, Room 318 (temporary)
Office Hours: After class on Tuesdays 3-4PM, Thursdays 4-5PM; also by appointment
Contact Information: psell@ufl.edu, phone TBD
Course Website: Mastering Astronomy and Canvas/E-Learning

Teaching Assistant: Yangyang Li
Office: Bryant Space Sciences Center, Room 315
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-2:30PM; and by appointment
Contact Information: yangyangli@ufl.edu
Note: There are no discussion/recitation sessions for this course. The TA is a grader only.

Textbook: You must purchase the required etext with access to Mastering Astronomy: *Life in the Universe*, 4th edition, by Bennet, Shostak (ISBN 978-0-13-408908-9). Instructions for doing this is available through the course's E-learning website.

Other references may be used for supplemental information throughout the course.

Brief Description: The origin of life on Earth and the possibility of life elsewhere. A multidisciplinary approach is followed. Conditions for life to form and the likelihood that such conditions may exist elsewhere in the universe are discussed. Also considered are schemes proposed for the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI).

Detailed Description of the Graded Course Structure

In-Class Work: Quizzes or group work will occasionally be given in class without prior announcement with the primary purposes of giving you an opportunity to review the material, giving the instructor the opportunity to check your comprehension of the material, and taking attendance. The number and frequency of these assignments is at the discretion of the instructor, but will be approximately 10 in total. The lowest 1-2 (depending on the number given during the semester) will be dropped or counted as extra credit for your final grade. Given this lenient policy, please do not contact the instructor to make up this in-class work unless you have a serious ongoing problem or you have excused absences consistent with university policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. You may need to make calculations, so you should always bring a working scientific calculator to class in addition to your usual materials for taking notes.

Homework: One homework per chapter will be assigned throughout the semester through the online learning interface. The assignment with the lowest grade will be dropped. Late homework will be penalized 10% per day.

Exams: There will be two exams given over the course of the semester: one midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will cover material up to the date of that exam and the final exam will be comprehensive; both will include material from lecture and the book. The Final Exam is scheduled for 12/11/2019 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Please bring a working non-programmable scientific calculator, at least two pencils (with erasers), and your ID with you to both exams.

Project: Since this is a course about Life in the Universe, there will be a design-your-own-alien project. A handout explaining the project fully will be provided sometime the first couple weeks of class. All guidelines, including due dates, will be provided in the handout.

Course Grade Summary Breakdown: Each of the components of class described above will be assigned the following weights to determine your final score:

- Project: 20%
- Homework: 30%
- Participation/In-Class Work: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 25%

Grading Scale: (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>)

Score	Grade
93% – 100%	A
90% – 92%	A–
87% – 89%	B+
83% – 86%	B
80% – 82%	B–
77% – 79%	C+
73% – 76%	C
70% – 72%	C–
67% – 69%	D+
63% – 66%	D

Score	Grade
60% – 62%	D–
Less than 60%	E

Class/University Policies:

- Please put your phones and, unless you are taking notes, your laptops away during class: no Facebook, Twitter, texting, etc.
- Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Disability Resource Center during the instructor’s office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification has been provided.
- Responsible citizenship among college students includes honesty and integrity in classwork; regard for the rights of others; and respect for local, state, and federal laws as well as campus standards. Students are responsible for understanding the standards of the “Code of Student Conduct” and the Student Handbook. From the Academic Honesty Guidelines and Student Conduct Code in the University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog: “Academic Honesty: The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge are diminished by cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff, and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.” Any student caught cheating will be referred to the Honor Code Chancellor.
- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Tentative Class Schedule (44 total hours; 13 chapters; 3 hr/chapter + 5):

Week Starting (hr)	Topics Covered	Week Starting	Topics Covered
08/19 (3)	Introduction to the Course, Chapter 1	10/14 (3)	Chapter 8
08/26 (3)	Chapter 2	10/21 (3)	Chapter 9
09/02 (3)	Chapter 3	10/28 (3)	Chapter 10
09/09 (3)	Chapter 4	11/04 (3)	Chapter 11
09/16 (3)	Chapter 5	11/11 (3)	Chapter 12
09/23 (3)	Chapter 6	11/18 (3)	Chapter 13
09/30 (3)	Chapter 7 / Midterm	11/25 (1)	Catch Up Week
10/07 (3)	Catch Up Week	12/02 (1)	Final Exam Review