

Biology 3316 / Geology 3316 / Physics 3316
Astrobiology

Fall 2013

M W 5:30-6:50 pm Life Science Bldg. 124

- INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. M. Cuntz, Professor
OFFICE: Chemistry and Physics Bldg. (New Planetarium), Rm 330
PHONE and E-MAIL: (817) 272-2467 and cuntz@uta.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 9.30-10.30 am, by appointment, or “after class”
- TEXTBOOK:** **Life in the Universe, 3rd Edition**
by J. Bennett & S. Shostak
Supplementary Material will be provided, including papers published in *Science* and *Nature*
- COURSE CONTENT:** A Universe of Life? (Chapter 1)
The Science of Life in the Universe (Chapter 2)
The Universal Context of Life (Chapter 3)
The Habitability of Earth (Chapter 4)
The Nature of Life on Earth (Chapter 5)
The Origin and Evolution of Life on Earth (Chapter 6)
Searching for Life in Our Solar System (Chapter 7)
Mars (Chapter 8)
Life on Jovian Moons (Chapter 9)
The Nature and Evolution of Habitability (Chapter 10)
Habitability Outside the Solar System (Chapter 11)
The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (Chapter 12)
Interstellar Travel and the Fermi Paradox (Chapter 13)
Selected papers published in *Nature*, *Science*, and other sources
- OBJECTIVES:** Learn about astronomical aspects of the evolution of life on Earth. Learn about evidence of life in the Solar System. Understand the physical constraints for life around different types of stars. Contemplate the inherent problems of SETI. Learn about the Drake equation and its implications.
- EXAMINATIONS:** **Test 1** will be held on September 30 (Mo).
Test 2 will be held on October 28 (Mo).
Test 3 will be held on November 25 (Mo).
The **Final** will be held on December 09 (Mo), 5:30-8 pm
- GRADING POLICY:** There will be five homeworks, three tests, and the Final. Each homework will count 6%, each test grade will count 15%, and the Final will count 25%.

No make-up for any of the tests, unless arranged in advance and depending on circumstances*.

Even if agreed on, a make-up test will have a **lesser number of extra-credit questions**.

There will be a one-week time frame for each homework.

*Accommodations will be provided for students with special needs (See additional information).

Additional Information

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Accommodations to Students with Disabilities

The Univ. of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public law 93112-The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

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