

AST 105-7T Extraterrestrial Life -- Fall 2004

Course Syllabus

Instructor: [Prof. Perry Gerakines](#)

Office: Campbell Hall, room 383

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3pm
(other times by pre-arranged appointment only)

Telephone: 934-8064
Email: gerak@uab.edu

Lecture: Sunday from 5:30-8:00pm in CH 301

Website: www.phy.uab.edu/~gerakine/ast105.html

Course Topics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the general nature of the Universe as a habitat for life • the nature of life on Earth and how life developed on the Earth • where life might exist elsewhere in the Solar System • where life might exist in other parts of the Universe, and if it's intelligent, how we might interact with it
Required Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LECTURE: Attendance is necessary! • TEXTBOOK: <i>Life in the Universe</i>, by Bennett, Shostak, & Jakosky.
Exams and Grading Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the Final Exam, 5 Quizzes will be given during the semester, once every three weeks. • Your Quiz Grade will be determined by averaging the 5 best scores from these 6 exams. • The quizzes and final exam will be composed of short-answer questions that probe your understanding of the important topics that are discussed in lecture. • Each week, a speculation question will be posed in the form of "the question of the week" and will pertain to topics not yet discussed in class. Each week, participation in the QOTW will earn you 1 extra point on the next quiz. • Course Grades will be determined by this formula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 90% of grade = Quiz Grade (avg of best 5 out of 6 exams) ◦ 10% of grade = Attendance & Participation
Cheating policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a student, you are expected to know UAB's policies on academic conduct. So I really should not have to explain them to you. • BUT <i>if you still haven't read UAB's Academic Honor Code or Non-Academic Conduct policies, then I suggest you do so now.</i> It may be found in the 2003-2004 UAB Undergraduate Catalog. • Any copying out of a book, website, or other person's work will be considered an incident of cheating. <i>This applies to all work you hand in to me, including the quizzes and the QOTW.</i> • In this course, the following procedure will be used when an incident occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 1st offense: no credit for that Quiz or QOTW. ◦ 2nd offense: you will receive a failing grade for this course and be turned in to UAB for academic misconduct (for which you will likely be expelled).
Suggested additional reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>New York Times' Science Times</i> section published every Tuesday; costs \$1. • <i>Sky & Telescope</i> magazine; monthly; costs \$4.99 per issue; also can be found in the UAB Sterne Library. • NASA (www.nasa.gov); Space.com (www.space.com); Astronomy Pic of the Day (apod.gsfc.nasa.gov); SETI@Home (setiathome.berkeley.edu); SETI Institute (www.seti-inst.edu)

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