



## Syllabus for Astronomy 99

### Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2024

Course ID & Section #: Astro 99 (E5800)

Instructor's name: Dr. Jon Pedicino

Day/Time, Monday 2:50-3:55 PM, Hum 129

Course units: 1.0

### Instructor Contact Information

Office: Hum 209, MW 9:00-10:00 AM

Email address: [jon-pedicino@redwoods.edu](mailto:jon-pedicino@redwoods.edu)

### Catalog Description

The search for life outside of our solar system is a constant theme of study in Astronomy. If we are not alone, then it stands to reason that some lifeforms may have developed intelligence and interstellar transport. Have we been visited? What UFO stories are the most compelling and deserved of serious scientific inquiry? Critical thinking and the scientific method will be applied to this question..

### Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. **Demonstrate how the scientific method is used to understand and analyze natural and artificial phenomena.**

### Grading

**52%**-Class Meets (13) 100 pts each **36%**- Presents (3) 300 pts each **12%**- Paper, 300 pts.

**A (>93.3%), A- (90-93.3%), B+ (86.7-89.9%), B (83.3-86.6%), B- (80-83.2%), C+ (76.7-79.9%), C (70-76.6%), D (55-69.9%), F (<55%)**

### Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated

### Astronomy 99 Class Schedule

Monday, January 22, First day of class

Monday, February 19, **No Class, Holiday**

Monday, March 11, **No Class, Spring Break**

Monday, April 1, **No Class, Holiday**

Monday, April 29, Last Class

**Friday, May 3, Paper due before midnight on Canvas**

### Astronomy 11 Topics/Outline

January 22      Introduction, Is There Life Beyond Earth?

January 29      Formation of the Universe, Supernovae, Galaxies, Scale

February 5      Presentations of compelling UFO stories/Astronomy Mysteries

February 12      Presentations

February 26      Presentations

March 4      Our Solar System, Planets, Moons, Asteroids, and Comets

March 18      Light as Information, Out There...., Exoplanets

March 25      Presentations

April 8      Presentations

April 15      Propulsion, Exploration Missions, Human Spaceflight, Voyagers, Moon and Mars

April 22      Presentations

April 29      Presentations, **Papers Due**

## **Research Essay Requirements**

### **Astronomy 99**

**Topic:** Are we alone in the Universe? Write a paper based on your opinion of this topic including materials that we have discussed this semester.

**Length: 3-5 (1100 word minimum)** double-spaced typed pages (or comparable amount of material completed in a different format), excluding figures and list of references.

**Sources:** Minimum three (3) sources other than encyclopedias. I encourage you to use the web or recent periodicals as sources. Many books will be out of date as the field of astronomy changes quite rapidly.

**Required:** Title page, Essay, References (footnotes), Reference List (bibliography).

**Due Date:** Friday, May 3, 2024 before midnight on Canvas.

**Late Penalty:** No late papers accepted.

Note: **Bibliography** should be a list of all sources you have consulted with full information given about each. Normally this includes title, author, publisher, page numbers, year, etc. Internet sites should be listed with their site address (i.e. <http://www.....>). To simplify, you might list each site as site 1, site 2, etc., and then reference them in that way in the text of your paper.

You should directly **reference** any idea, fact, or quotation that is not your own or common knowledge (i.e. 'the Earth is round' does not need a reference). You are free to use any reference style you would like (MLA, APA, Chicago style). The simplest style includes the author's name or title and the page number or the website (site 1, site 2, etc) following the referenced fact, quote, or idea in parentheses.

An example: The meteoritic impact in the Yucatan peninsula is believed to have led to the extinction of the dinosaurs. (Kring, 1993) or (site 1).

