Syllabus for Astronomy 99

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2025
Course ID & Section #: Astro 99 (E7585)
Instructor's name: Dr. Jon Pedicino
Day/Time, Wednesday 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

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

54%-Class Meets (14) 100 pts each **35%**- Presents (3) 300 pts each **11%**- 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%)

Educational Accessibility & Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
A learning disability (such as dyslexia, reading comprehension), intellectual disability, autism, or acquired brain injury
Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (such as audio books or E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact SASS for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor

Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2324
- Location: Main Building, next to the library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280

Astronomy 99 Class Schedule

Wednesday, January 22, First day of class

Wednesday, March 19, **No Class, Spring Break**

Wednesday, May 7, Last Class

Friday, May 9, Paper due before midnight on Canvas

Astronomy 99 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 19	Presentations
February 26	Presentations
March 5	Our Solar System, Planets, Moons, Asteroids, and Comets
March 12	Light as Information, Out There…., Exoplanets
March 26	Presentations
April 2	Presentations
April 9	Presentations
April 16	Propulsion, Exploration Missions, Human Spaceflight, Voyagers, Moon and Mars
April 23	Presentations
April 30	Presentations
May 7	Presentations, **Papers Due, Friday, May 9**

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 9, 2025 before midnight on Canvas.

Late Penalty: <u>No late papers accepted</u>.

<u>Note:</u> **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.

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