

# Origins Syllabus – Astro 305 – Topics in Origins of Life Research

## Spring 2018

Tue/Thu

(times vary see below)

Course Coordinator: Prof. Dimitar Sasselov

This full year half-course will cover a broad range of contemporary topics in origins of life research through a set of 10 two-week modules taught by members of the Origins of Life Initiative faculty. Enrolled students will be required to attend at least six of the offered modules, but sign up for the full year. The course will meet twice per week, and each two week module will be comprised of a stand-alone-topic with a single assignment.

*This course counts towards the GSAS Origins of Life Consortium requirements.*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 23 & 25 Jan. 30 & Feb. 1	Karin Oberg 1:00pm start time	The Chemistry of Star and Planet Formation	<i>Shaler Seminar Room 24 Oxford Street</i>
February 6 & 8 February 13 & 15	Stein Jacobsen 1:00pm start time	Formation of the Earth & friends	<i>Shaler Seminar Room 24 Oxford Street</i>
February 20 & 22 February 27	Andy Knoll 2:00pm start time	Life and Environments on the Early Earth (and Mars?)	<i>Shaler Seminar Room 24 Oxford Street</i>
March 1 & 6	Jack Szostak 2:00pm start time	From Chemistry to Life	<i>Shaler Seminar Room 24 Oxford Street</i>
March 27 & 29	Ann Pearson 2:00pm start time	Early Life: Metabolism & Evolution; Evidence for the Record	<i>Shaler Seminar Room 24 Oxford Street</i>
April 3, 5, 10 & 12	Juan Perez-Mercader 2:00pm start time	TBD	<i>Shaler Seminar Room 24 Oxford Street</i>

### **Course Requirements:**

Individual modules may include an assignment. Details will be determined and discussed by the individual module instructors during the first meeting of each module. The default collaboration policy allows students to discuss the assignments, but each student should work through and submit the assignments individually.

*The individual instructors may issue a modified collaboration policy.*

The course grade will be determined using a combination of problem set assignments (80%) and participation (20%).

### **Contacts:**

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Please see the below link for a map to Shaler Seminar Room in the Geo Museum at 24 Oxford Street.

Map to Shaler Seminar : <http://map.harvard.edu/?bld=04240&level=9>