

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

Spring 2019

Tue/Thu 1:30-2:45

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 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.

Spring 2019 Schedule:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 29, 31	Dimitar Sasselov	Exoplanet Science - Introduction	<i>Astronomy Classroom, A-101</i>
February 5, 7	Dimitar Sasselov	Exoplanet Science - Basics	<i>Astronomy Classroom, A-101</i>
February 12, 14	Dimitar Sasselov	Exoplanets & Relevance to Origins	<i>Astronomy Classroom, A-101</i>
February 19, 21, 26, 28	TBD	Exoplanets – Understanding the host stars	<i>Astronomy Classroom, A-101</i>
March 5, 7, 12, 14	TBD	Planet discovery – astro-combs	<i>Astronomy Classroom, A-101</i>
March 18 - 22	Spring break	Spring break	<i>No classes</i>
April 2, 4	Diana Dragomir (MIT)	The TESS Mission Science	<i>Astronomy Classroom, A-101</i>
April 23, 25	David Latham	The TESS Mission Science	<i>A-101</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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