

ASTR 380 SEMINAR IN MODERN ASTRONOMY

Course Description

Seminar covering selected topics in contemporary astronomy. Extensive use of library facilities including current journals and periodicals in astronomy. Discussions of current astronomical research. (3 credit hours)

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

A total of 6 hours of credit may be earned, but no more than 3 in any one semester or term.

Course Objectives

This course is expected to develop a greater awareness of resource materials related to astronomy, to enhance skills in information acquisition, to improve oral and written communication skills as well as to broaden the understanding of the students about the science of astronomy.

Course Rational

Most science classes are relatively well defined by the subject matter involved. The most efficient mode of instruction centers on a textbook with lectures supplemented by student discussion, problem solving activities and individual student projects and presentations. This course encourages greater student responsibility in the development of course content, improves student skills in information gathering from a variety of sources, and enhances written and oral communication skills in the sciences. It also permits opportunities for the exploration of nontraditional topics and topics of current interest.

Course Content, Format, and Bibliography

Content

The content of this course is very flexible and must be determined when it is offered.

Format

This course will be offered in a seminar format with some information being presented by the instructor. Outside speakers may be invited in as appropriate. Student activities, presentations and discussion will be a significant part of the course. Individual student projects will be completed.

This course is taught as a dual undergraduate/graduate course. Students will be required to complete activities appropriate for the level of the course in which they are enrolled. Student performance on homework, exams and/or labs will be evaluated using different standards for undergraduate and graduate students.

Bibliography

The instructional materials for this course will be determined at the time it is offered.