Course Syllabus
Search for Life in the Universe, Libsci 3211
Spring 2005

Instructor: Alan Calder
calder@flash.uchicago.edu
(773) 834-3904
http://flash.uchicago.edu/~calder

Class Meeting: Fridays as scheduled 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, MI 920.

Office Hours: Before and after class, and by appointment.

Text: Life in the Universe by Bennett, Shostak, and Jakosky.
www.astronomyplace.com

Evaluation: 50% Homework
30% Exams
10% Project
10% Class Participation

Field Trip: An excursion to Adler Planetarium.

Homework: Homework will be assigned at each class meeting, and homework is due at the beginning of the next class meeting. Late homework will not be accepted without prior permission.

Exams: Three one-hour written tests will be given during the course.

Project: A project on “Life” or “SETI” is due on or before the last class meeting. Students are required to make a 10 minute presentation on their project to the class.

Participation: 10% of the course grade comes from participation in class. Questions (and discussion) from students are encouraged during the lectures, and students will also be called upon during lecture to answer questions. The class participation part of the grade will come from the preparedness and enthusiasm shown in class and outside of class.

Attendance: The course will proceed at a rapid pace and as it meets only once a week, attendance is essential. As SAIC requires, three or more absences will result in failing the class.

Academic Honesty: Please read the SAIC Student Handbook and Students’ Rights and Responsibilities documents concerning plagiarism and academic honesty. Discussion of homework with other students is permitted, as long as it is explicitly acknowledged. Students are expected to arrive at solutions independently, though, and if two or more homework solutions are too similar, even with acknowledgment of discussion, the students could lose the grade.