

AST 248 – The Search for Life in the Universe – Syllabus

Date	Pages in Text	Topic
Sep 1	1–47	Historical Introduction
Sep 3	48–57	Distances, Masses, Energies
Sep 8	84–88	Properties of Radiation
Sep 10 (1)	360–369, 388–393	Stars and Stellar Evolution
Sep 15	70–84, 88–98	Formation of the Solar System
Sep 17 (2)	62–64, 346–347, 361, 392	Nuclear Reactions and Nucleosynthesis
Sep 22	57–61, 64–70	The Universe and the Anthropic Principle
Sep 24 (3)	99–120	Radioactive Dating and History of the Earth
Oct 1 (4)	120–147	Interior of the Earth and Climate
Oct 6	Exam # 1	
Oct 8	148–160	Definition of Life and Evolution
Oct 13	160–167	Composition of Life
Oct 15 (5)	167–178	Metabolism and Heredity
Term paper due		
Oct 20	178–189	Extreme Life
Oct 22 (6)	190–206	Origin of Life
Oct 27	206–215, 221–234	Evolution of Life
Oct 29 (7)	215–221	Impacts on the Earth
Nov 3	235–242	Environments for Life
Nov 5 (8)	242–244, 250–259	Inner Solar System and Spacecraft Exploration
Nov 10	Exam # 2	
Nov 12	245, 246, 260–294	Mars
Nov 17	246–248, 295–312	Jovian Satellites
Nov 19 (9)	312–327	Titan and Outer Solar System
Optional extra-credit term paper due		
Nov 24	328–358	Venus and the Habitable Zone
Dec 1	370–384, 393–397	Extra-Solar Planets
Dec 3 (10)	384–388, 398–410	Drake Equation
Dec 8	410–436	SETI and UFOs
Dec 10 (11)	437–476	Interstellar Travel and the Fermi Paradox
Dec 17	Exam # 3 – 5:15 PM	

Numbers in parentheses (#) indicate homework # due date