

Extraterrestrial Life

INSTRUCTORS:

Dr. Neal Evans, RLM 15.312A, 471-4396

Office Hours: Mon 4-5; Wed 9-10

TAs: Name	Sections	Office Hours	Office	Phone
Emma Yu	65070, 75, 80	M 5-6	RLM 15.310F	471-3647
Brian Mulligan	65085, 90, 95	W 1-2	RLM 16.216	471-0445
Wenbin Lu	65100, 105, 110	W 4-5	RLM 16.312	471-8275

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Extraterrestrial Life, 6th Edition, by Evans; **Contact** by Carl Sagan; **Pocket Style Manual** by Hacker

GRADES:

There will be 4 exams, one paper, and one oral presentation. There will be no final. Grades will be based on highest 2 of the first 3 exam scores plus the last exam score (45%), a five-page paper (30%), oral presentation (5%), quizzes in discussion sections (5%), participation in discussion sections (5%), a short report on a University "Gem" (5%), and attendance at a University Lecture and a short report (5%).

Exams consist entirely of essay questions. Blue books must be used for all exams. The lowest of the first three exam scores will be dropped. The last exam cannot be dropped. There will be absolutely no make-up exams, no matter how good your reason is for missing the exam. Dropping the lowest score will cover the situation where an exam is missed for a legitimate reason. Each exam will be worth 90 points, giving a total of 270 points for a perfect score on the exams. There will be one five-page paper worth 180 points and an oral presentation worth 30 points. Weekly quizzes and participation in discussion sections are each worth another 30 points. Attendance at a University Lecture accompanied by a report on the lecture will add 30 points, and a short report on a University Gem adds 30 points, for a total of 600 possible points.

The scores needed to obtain a given grade are listed here:

A	563 – 600	A–	525-562
B+	491 – 524	B	459-490
		B–	425-458
C+	393 – 424	C	359-392
		C–	325-358
D+	293 – 324	D	259-292
		D–	225-258

There will also be occasional pop quizzes for extra credit, and we will give extra credit to those who actively participate in class discussion during lectures.

Cheating on exams will be dealt with very harshly; don't do it!

TOPICS:

The course covers a wide range of topics, drawing on astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, anthropology, and history. The table of contents of the text gives a good idea of the subjects covered in the class.

OTHER MATTERS:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. An extensive document describing plagiarism will be made available. If you need special arrangements for religious holidays, or because of disabilities, notify the professor well in advance. Use of cell phones during class is not allowed. Use of computers to follow and annotate the pdf files of the lecture presentations is the only acceptable use of computers or similar devices during class time.
