

Extraterrestrial Life Schedule

AST309L

Spring 2008

	Instructor	Teaching Assistants	
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Schedule: Be sure to do the reading assignments **before** the class they are assigned for. Those who are prepared and ask questions or contribute to discussion will receive extra credit. If the scheduled office hours are not possible for you, we will make appointments for other times. Reading Assignments refer to chapters in the Class notes (Evans) or to the whole of the novel **Contact** by Carl Sagan. You should start reading **Contact** by about Spring Break, marking passages that discuss communications or travel ideas. Then review these before classes when those topics are discussed.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments	Drake Equation Factor
1/15	Course Overview	1	
1/17	Origin of Elements	2	
1/22	Origin of Stars	3A–3C	R_*
1/24	Origin of Planets	3D	f_p
1/29	Nature of Solar Systems	3E	
1/31	Habitable Planets	3F	n_e
2/5	Review (Chap1-3)		
2/7	Nature of Life	4A	
2/12	Test 1 (Ch. 1–3)		
2/14	Origin of Life	4B–C	f_ℓ
2/19	Origin of Life	4D	
2/21	Alternatives	4E–4G	

2/26	Life in Solar System	5A–B	
2/28	Life in Solar System	5C–D	
3/4	Test 2 (Ch. 4–5)		
3/6	Biological Evolution	6A	
3/11	Spring Break	Start Reading	Contact
3/13	Spring Break		
3/18	Origin of Intelligence	6B	f_i
3/20	Cultural Evolution	7A	
3/25	Evolution of World View	7B	f_c
3/27	Lifetime	7C	L
4/1	Future of Civilization	7D	
4/3	Test 3 (Ch. 6-7)		
4/8	Drake Equation	8	N, r
4/10	Communication	9A–C	
4/15	Communication	9D–9E	
4/17	Contact (Communication)	Contact	
4/22	Travel	10A–B	
4/24	Visitations?	10C	
4/29	Contact (Travel, Reactions)	Contact	Course evaluation
5/1	Test 4 (Ch. 8–10 & Contact)		