SYLLABUS: PERS 2002 Scientific Perspectives on Global Problems

LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS
HONORS SECTION

Fall 2002, Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 3:20 pm,
430 Aderhold Learning Center (Computer #82380)
(on the WWW at http://www.chara.gsu.edu/~gies/PERS2002/index.html)

• Instructors: D. R. Gies, 719-1PP, (404) 651-1366 (Physics & Astronomy),
  W. C. Elliott, 340-KH, (404) 463-9548 (Geology), &
  J. E. Houghton, 416-SCA, (404) 651-0549 (Biology)

• Objectives: To examine the question of whether we are alone in the Universe from
  a scientific perspective. The course will cover basic elements of astronomy, physics,
  geology, and biology to help understand the origin and development of life on Earth.
  We will study environments on Earth and other worlds where life might thrive.

• Textbook: The Search for Life in the Universe, 3rd Edition,
  by D. Goldsmith and T. Owen, 2001 (University Science Books).

• Grades: Meeting participation .............................................10%
  Essay .................................................................10%
  Best 3 out of 4 tests .................................................60%
  Final Exam .............................................................20%

  Students are expected to do their own work and to abide by the Policy on Academic
  Honesty discussed in the University General Catalog.

  Schedule: The Honors Section will meet on the same TR schedule as the main PERS 2002
  class and on the following Fridays, 3:00 – 3:50 pm.

  • Sept. 6:  340 Kell Hall, Geology research
  • Sept. 20:    732 One Park Place, Astronomy research
  • Oct. 4:  510 Natural Science Center, Biology research
  • Oct. 18:  732 One Park Place, Discussion on UFOs
  • Nov. 1:  732 One Park Place, Discussion on the Fermi Paradox

  Unexpected circumstances may require changes in the syllabus as the semester progresses.