



North American AstroPhysical Observatory (NAAPO)



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SETI Popular Topic in Colleges

By: Editors

Many colleges and universities are giving or planning to give courses on SETI. We have received information on a number of these as presented here. We would like to list other institutions where SETI courses are given. Please send information to Professor John Kraus, Editor of **COSMIC SEARCH**, Ohio State University Radio Observatory, 2015 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210. Years given, attendance, a syllabus (if available) and other information will be appreciated.

Institution: San Diego State University, San Diego, California 92182

Instructor: John R. Sievers, Dept. of Astronomy

Title: Extraterrestrial Life and Space Colonization

Content: Introductory astronomy, life, probability of life in the galaxy, techniques of search, consequences of contact, space colonization, human requirements (physical, psychological and cultural), design and construction of a model colony, future considerations.

References: Shklovskii and Sagan, "Intelligent Life in the Universe", NASA Report SP-413 on "Space Settlements", and notes by instructor.

Year given: Spring 1979 (new course).

Enrollment: 60. Sievers writes: "I was astounded by the great demand for a course of this type on our campus. The course filled very quickly. Approximately 70 percent of the class consists of graduate and senior students."

Institution: Stockton State College, Pomona, New Jersey 08240

Instructor: Dennis Wildfogel, Assistant Professor, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Title: The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Content: Astronomy basics on stars, galaxies and the universe. Problems and significance of searching for extraterrestrial intelligence. Impact on our society. Class members will work together on a group project and make both a written and oral presentation. Wildfogel writes: "Although some very clever thinking has been done about communication with extraterrestrials, the field is so new and so subject to debate that there is a strong possibility that a student group can make a significant contribution."

References: Sullivan, "We Are Not Alone", Sagan, "The Cosmic Connection", and others.

Year given: Spring 1979 (new course).

Enrollment: Two dozen students representing almost as many major areas of specialization.

Institution: Consumnes River College, Sacramento, California 95823

Instructor: Wayne R. Anderson, Physics and Astronomy Department, and also

instructors from the Anthropology and Biology Departments.

Title: Life in the Universe. 3-unit credit course co-numbered Astronomy 30 and Anthropology 30.

Content: Origin of solar system, origin of life on the earth, possibilities of extraterrestrial life.

Texts: Shklovskii and Sagan, "Intelligent Life in the Universe" and Orgel, "Origins of Life".

Years given: 3

Enrollment: 50 to 90

Institution: Menlo College, Menlo Park, California 94025

Instructor: Donald J. Albers, Chairman, Dept. of Mathematics

Title: Little Green Men and Bug-Eyed Monsters: Perspectives on Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Content: Galactic perspective, is man alone or unique, intelligent neighbors, strategy of searching, space colonization, significance of contact. Basic theme is Carl Sagan's statement: "In a very real sense this search for extraterrestrial intelligence is a search for a cosmic context for mankind, a search for who we are, where we have come from and the possibilities there are for our future—in a universe vaster both in extent and duration than our forefathers ever dreamed of."

References: Shklovskii and Sagan, "Intelligent Life in the Universe", Bracewell, "The Galactic Club", Oliver and Billingham, "Project Cyclops Report" (NASA), **COSMIC SEARCH**, and others.

Field trip: To NASA-Ames Center on SETI Research.

Years given: 1978, 1979

Enrollment: 15

Institution: The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210

Instructors: Terry Roark, Ph.D., Professor of Astronomy; Robert Ross, Associate Professor of Biochemistry; Mark Auburn, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

Title: Extraterrestrial Life: Probability and Possibilities

Content: An exploration of the question of the existence and nature of other life forms in the Universe. The sciences of astronomy and biochemistry will be used as a foundation for statements concerning the probability of such life while the

literature of science fiction will provide a perspective for insight into and extrapolation beyond the probable. A non-credit, continuing-education course for the interested layperson. Specialized knowledge in mathematics or the sciences is not required.

Year given: Spring 1979 (new course offering).

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Designed by Jerry Ehman.

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