



North American AstroPhysical Observatory (NAAPO)



Cosmic Search: Issue 9 (Volume 3 Number 1; Winter 1981) [Article in magazine found on page 15]

College Courses on "Life in the Universe"

By: Editors

College courses on "Life in the Universe" are becoming increasingly popular. Although dealing mainly with astronomy, many of the courses include much interdisciplinary material from such diverse areas as biology, medicine, psychology, physiology, semantics and communication.

We would like to include additional institutions. Please send information to Prof.

John Kraus, Ohio State University Radio Observatory, 2015 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210. Years given, attendance, a syllabus (if available) and other information will be appreciated.

In previous issues we have listed 25 colleges or universities offering or planning to offer courses. We list here 4 more institutions: University of Innsbruck, Austria; University of Missouri (Columbia); North Seattle Community College, Washington; and the Far East Division of the University of Maryland.

Institution: Astronomical Institute, University of Innsbruck, Austria, 6020.

Instructor: Dr. Georg M. Gruber (on leave from Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa).

Title: Possibilities of Life in the Universe.

Content: Basic astronomy, evolution of life, interstellar communication and colonization.

References: Goldsmith and Owen, Butler and Messel, Firsoff, COSMIC SEARCH.

Years given: 1981



Institution: University of Missouri (Columbia) 65211.

Instructor: Prof. Charles J. Peterson, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy.

Title: SETI

Content: Life as we know it, planetary systems, the search for extra-terrestrial civilizations.

References: Bracewell, "The Galactic Club;" Goldsmith and Owen, "The Search for Life in the Universe;" COSMIC SEARCH, Icarus, Mercury.

Years given: 1980

Enrollment: 15



Institution: North Seattle Community College, Seattle, Washington 98103.

Instructor: John E. Baer, Division of Science and Mathematics.

Title: Life in the Universe.

Content: A survey of our universe, focusing on the probability of life elsewhere, the search for alien civilizations and the future of civilizations, including our own.

References: Goldsmith and Owen, "The Search for Life in the Universe;" O'Neill,

"The High Frontier;" COSMIC SEARCH.

Year given: 1980.

Enrollment: 24



Institution: University of Maryland, Far East Division, APO San Francisco, California 96328.

Instructor: Dr. Peter M. Kranz

Title: Extraterrestrial Life and Interstellar Travel

Content: Origin of life, stellar and planetary evolution, the search for extraterrestrial life.

References: Hoyle, "Black Cloud;" Sagan, "Cosmic Connection;" Ridpath, "Worlds Beyond;" Wald, "Origin of Life;" Jastrow and Thompson, "Fundamentals of Astronomy".

Years given: 1980

Enrollment: 30

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Designed by Jerry Ehman.

Last modified: June 10, 2006.