

Physics 106, “Introduction to Astrobiology”

General Information

Instructor: Mark Henriksen

email: henrikse@umbc.edu

Office: online

office hours: By appointment

Location: online

Time: MWF 9:00 - 9:50 AM

For Online Delivery

The lectures will be given synchronously via Webex at the scheduled class meeting times. You will need access to webex. You will receive an email invitation to the meetings before the first day of classes. Students are expected to attend. There will be a discussion component during the class meetings to enhance understanding of the lecture material.

Course description

The purpose of this course is to provide undergraduate students with a general background in astrobiology. Course content includes basic concepts in chemistry, biology, astronomy, geology, and physics that are applicable to astrobiology.

Grading procedure

Grades will be calculated using the following template: (1) two midterm exams – 25% each, (2) homework – 10%, (3) final exam – 40%. Please note that exams will be based on lecture material, homework, and exam review material.

Scope of this Course

The lecture material amplifies the content in the textbook. All chapters will be covered and students should read the textbook for the best experience.

Textbook: “Life in the Universe”, Bennett and Shostak, 2nd Edition, Pearson

Schedule of Exams

Midterm 1: October 7

Midterm 2: November 11

Final Exam: December 11, 8:00-10:00

Homework Assignments

Homework will be due on the Monday following the completion of the lectures for that chapter. Homework consists of problems in Quick Quiz (QQ). Once in a while they can be tricky and it is best to look up each question’s relevant material in the textbook.

1. Chapter 1: QQ
2. Chapter 2: QQ
3. Chapter 3: QQ
4. Chapter 4: QQ
5. Chapter 5: QQ
6. Chapter 6: QQ
7. Chapter 7: QQ

8. Chapter 8: QQ

9. Chapter 9: QQ

10. Chapter 10: QQ

11. Chapter 11: QQ

12. Chapter 12: QQ

13. Chapter 13: QQ

Achieving Course Goals and Meeting Academic Expectations

The most successful students in this course attend lectures and take notes, are attentive, complete all homework assignments on time, and review for exams.

Policy on late homework, missed Exams, and Exams

Late homework will not be accepted. Make up exams will not be possible. Any exam that is turned in late, will have a 10% penalty up to 10 minutes late and 20% from 11 – 20 minutes late.

Policy on Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is an important value at UMBC. By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC’s scholarly community in which everyone’s academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal.” Academic integrity will be enforced.

Student Support /Disability Services

“UMBC is committed to eliminating discriminatory obstacles that may disadvantage students based on disability. Services for students with disabilities are provided for all students qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the ADAAA of 2009, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that would allow for students to have equal access and inclusion in all courses, programs, and activities at the University.”