

ASTRONOMY 153 Moons and Planets - Brief Syllabus

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Office hours: 1 hour before and after each class

Keep checking UVM Blackboard for course updates

Purpose: A wealth of observational data in the last 30 years has revolutionized solar system astronomy, as well as our knowledge of exoplanet systems. We first review the parameters of the Drake equation as a review of pertinent 005 topics. It predicts the number of life forms in our galaxy. Current topics of research concerning the planets and moons in our system are then discussed, with emphasis on the underlying observations and logic. Exoplanet systems are also addressed in detail. The chances of discovering life are emphasized throughout.

Prerequisite: Astronomy 005, Math 10 or permission

Possible Topics List: (not in order)

Course intro and the d

Astr 005 review: deriving terms of the Drake equation

Origin of the solar system

Necessary environments for life and habitable zones

Origin of

Our lopsided moon and the lunar Maria

Formation of moons

Details of the