

ASTR 288M --- Current Events in Astronomy Research

Instructor: Dr. Stuart Vogel

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Course Goals:

Learn about exciting frontier astronomical research. Encourage critical thinking and critical reading of articles about astronomy research. Build skills in presenting scientific results, and practice thinking on your feet.

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to attend and participate. Attendance and participation will be a significant part of your grade.

Discussion Topics: You are required to present and lead five discussions based on articles on current research, presenting approximately every third week. You choose the topic. These articles can be from the newspaper, magazine, blog, or scientific journal. They should discuss astronomical research completed during the past several years. Ideally, you should dig deeper than just a newspaper story, perhaps by including some information from a journal preprint or article.

You should send me a link to the article no later than the end of the Friday preceding class. If I think it's not a good topic, I'll let you know. Please be sure to include "ASTR 288M" in the subject line of your e-mail so that I can identify your e-mail. You should prepare a 10-15-minute informal presentation discussing the article, and perform one calculation based on the article.

Grading:

Your grade will be calculated based on the requirements above. Please note this places heavy emphasis on attendance, as well as your presentation and participation. You cannot get a good grade without regular attendance.

Class Scheduling:

I travel in support of my research and my role as department chair, and I sometimes have meetings I must attend. When it is necessary to reschedule, this will be done with advance notice and at a time when most can attend; you won't be penalized if you are unable to attend a rescheduled class.