



Planetary Science 395B Tutorial in Planetary Science

Kuiper room 309, Tuesday 2:00-2:50pm

Description of Course

This course will provide an overview of the practice of planetary science through a combination of lectures, readings, and discussions. Topics will focus on introducing students to a career in planetary science, including understanding the breadth of the field, lectures and discussions with PTYS Faculty on their research and career, applying for research internships and graduate school, and the scientific literature.

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Ginny Gulick

Kuiper 542

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Office hours: by appointment

Course Format and Teaching Methods

Lecture and in-class discussion

Course Objectives

- Introduce students to the practice of planetary science, including the nature of planetary science, research, and the scientific literature.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Think critically*
- Communicate effectively*

Absence and Class Participation Policy

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-and-participation>.

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religiousaccommodation-policy>.

Absences preapproved by the UA Dean of Students (or dean's designee) will be honored. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources/attendance>.

Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all lectures and discussion section meetings. Absences may affect a student's final course grade. If you anticipate being absent, are unexpectedly absent, or are unable to participate in class online activities, please contact me as soon as possible. To request a disability-related accommodation to this attendance policy, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (520) 621-3268 or drcinfo@email.arizona.edu. If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The Dean of Students Office is in the Robert L. Nugent Building, room 100, or call 520-621-7057.

Makeup Policy for Students Who Register Late

Students who register after the first class meeting may make up missed assignments/quizzes on a timeline set by the professor.

Course Communications

Information pertinent to this course will be conveyed by announcements in class, through messages to your official University of Arizona e-mail address, and by D2L. Students are responsible for being aware of any announcements made in class.

<https://d2l.arizona.edu/d2l/home/1812171>

Required Texts or Readings

Readings will be distributed electronically during the semester via the course D2L page

Required or Special Materials

None

Required Extracurricular Activities

None

Assignments and Examinations: Schedule/Due Dates

Homework and/or readings will be assigned weekly, to be turned in on the course D2L page. There are no exams in this class

Final Examination or Project

No final exam or project is required in this class

Grading Scale and Policies

Letter grades will be based on a combination of attendance, participation in discussions, and assignments. Because this class relies heavily on participation in class, each two unexcused absences will result in a penalty of one letter grade. Requests for incomplete

Lecture	Date	Topics
1	August 25, 2026	Welcome, Introductions, Overview
2	September 1, 2026	What is Science, PTYS, and PTGS? How to read a scientific paper efficiently
3	September 8, 2026	LPL PTGS Undergraduate Student Research Projects: Dora and Lily
4	September 15, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: Ice on Mars and in the solar system/HiRISE PI: Prof. Shane Byrne
5	September 22, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: TBD
6	September 29, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: Seismology/Missions: Prof. Angela Marusiak
7	October 6, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: Volcanism/Astrobiology/Iceland studies: Prof. Christopher Hamilton
8	October 13, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: Planetary Materials: Prof. Tom Zega
9	October 20, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: Tour of the K-ALFAA labs
10	October 27, 2026 ¹	Perspectives at LPL: TBD
11	November 3, 2026	Perspectives at LPL: Exoplanets: Prof. Ty Robinson
12	November 10, 2026	Undergraduate research: REUs, Internships, Space Grant, PTYS 495
	November 11, 2026	Veteran's Day – No Classes
13	November 17, 2026	Applying to graduate school, Career paths
14	November 24, 2026	Brief Space Grant discussion with Michelle Coe
	November 26, 2026	Thanksgiving – No Classes
15	December 1, 2026	Preparing a Resume or Curriculum Vitae
16	December 8, 2026	The scientific literature (purpose, types of papers, structure of a paper) Paper discussion

(I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-gradingsystem#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-gradingsystem#Withdrawal> respectively.

Scheduled Topics/Activities:

¹ Note: Professor Gulick will be at the Division for Planetary Sciences Meeting in Seattle Washington, October 25-30, 2026