



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

vgulick@arizona.edu

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 located 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/1507422>

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 (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

Lecture	Date	Topic
1	August 26, 2025	Welcome, introductions, overview
2	September 2, 2025	What is science, planetary science
3	September 9, 2025	Past and Future of Planetary Science
4	September 16, 2025	Perspectives at LPL: Great Discoveries in PTYS/Exoplanets: Dr. Mark Marley
5	September 23, 2025*	Perspectives at LPL: Philosophy of Science: Dr. Victor Baker
6	September 30, 2025	Undergraduate research: REUs, Internships, PTYS 495
7	October 7, 2025	Career paths, Applying to graduate school
8	October 14, 2025*	Perspectives at LPL: Planetary Geomorphology/Paleohydrology: Dr. Victor Baker
9	October 21, 2025*	Perspectives at LPL: Planetary Geology/Remote Sensing: Dr. Stefano Nerozzi
10	October 28, 2025	Perspectives at LPL: Missions/Planetary Geology: Dr. Alfred McEwen
11	November 4, 2025	Perspectives at LPL: Lab work/Geochemistry: Dr. Jessica Barnes
	November 11 2025	Veteran's Day- No Classes
12	November 18, 2025	The scientific literature (purpose, types of papers, structure of a paper)
13	November 25, 2025	The scientific literature (scientific writing)
	November 27, 2025	Thanksgiving- No Classes
14	December 2, 2025	Discussion: Paper
15	December 9, 2025	Wrap-up
		*Note: Professor Gulick will be on travel

Classroom Behavior Policy

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations with people sitting around them during lecture. Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior. Those who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Students may wish to use laptops, tablets, or other devices for note taking or viewing course related materials during class but must refrain from engaging in other activities (e.g., e-mail, social media, web browsing).

Threatening Behavior Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See:

<http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

Safety on Campus and in the Classroom

For a list of emergency procedures for all types of incidents, please visit the website of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT): <https://cirt.arizona.edu/case-emergency/overview>

Also watch the video available

at https://arizona.sabacloud.com/Saba/Web_spf/NA7P1PRD161/common/learningeventdetail/crtfy000000000003560

Life challenges:

If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, please note the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful.

The [Dean of Students Office](#) can be reached at (520) 621-2057 or DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu.

Physical and mental-health challenges:

If you are facing physical or mental health challenges this semester, please note that Campus Health provides quality medical and mental health care. For medical

appointments, call (520) 621-9202. For After Hours care, call (520) 570-7898. For the Counseling & Psych Services (CAPS) 24/7 hotline, call (520) 621-3334.

Preferred Gender Pronouns:

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct instructors on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly in class or via email (vgulick@arizona.edu).

Students may designate pronouns they use to identify themselves. To change your listed pronoun on UAccess, navigate to the Student Self Service page, go to the personal information section, and click on “Names”. Options include (he, him, his), (she, her, hers), (they, them, theirs), (xe, xem, xyr), and (ze, zir).

More information on updating your preferred name and pronouns is available on the Office of the Registrar site at <https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/>.

Preferred name:

University of Arizona students may choose to identify themselves within the University community using a preferred first name that differs from their official/legal name. A student’s preferred name will appear instead of the person’s official/legal first name in select University-related systems and documents, provided that the name is not being used for the purpose of misrepresentation. Students are able to update their preferred names in UAccess.

Classroom community

My goal is to establish this class as a community of mutual respect. I believe that diversity is a critical part of science – diversity of ideas, diversity of perspectives, and diversity of individuals. I appreciate the fact that each student brings their own history and perspective to the class. I recognize that many in our campus community have faced discrimination and bias throughout their educations and their lives, particularly people of color and other under-represented minorities. I expect that everyone in this class will treat everyone else with respect at all times. If at any time you feel that I have failed to treat you with respect, I ask you to speak with me to help me to understand my failing or to clear up any misunderstanding.

Accessibility and Accommodations

At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu/>) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/code-academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent.

Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

Additional Resources for Students

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>.

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Confidentiality of Student Records

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personalinformation/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa?topic=ferpa>

Land acknowledgement

The University of Arizona resides on ancestral lands of the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui nations, where many today continuously reside in their ancestral land. I acknowledge the privilege it is to teach and learn in this region and I express my gratitude to these nations.

I also acknowledge the historical and present-day injustices that many indigenous peoples have suffered at the hands of those in power, including the loss of their ancestral lands, and the grave inequities that persist today as a result.

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.