

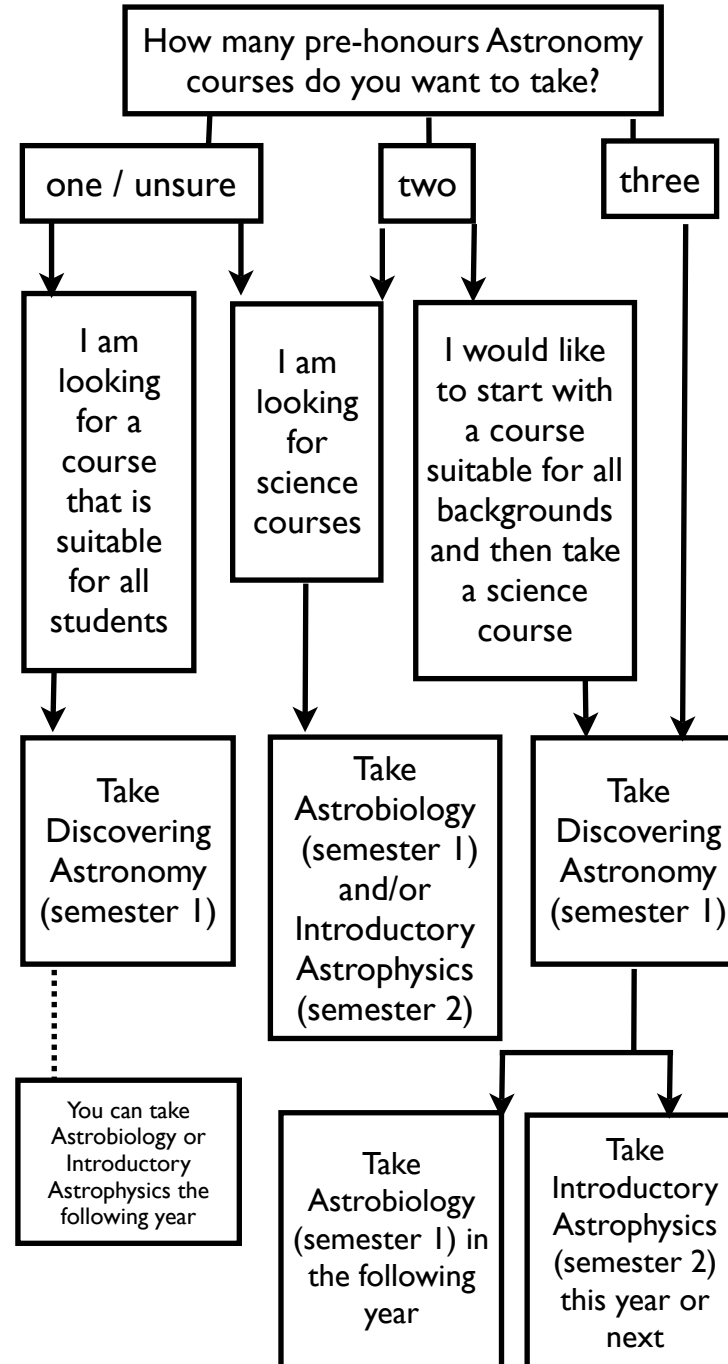
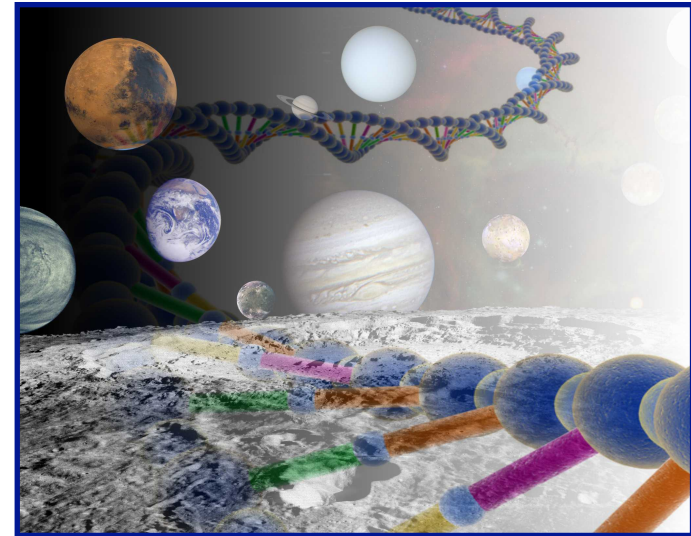
Which course should I choose?



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
School of Physics & Astronomy

Introductory Astronomy Courses 2014-2015

- How did the Universe begin?
- What is a Black Hole?
- Am I really made of star dust?
- Is there life elsewhere?



Astrobiology Course Organiser:

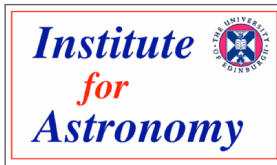
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Discovering Astronomy Course Organiser:

Prof Philip Best
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Introductory Astrophysics Course Organiser:

Dr Catherine Heymans
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If you're interested in questions such as these, then take one of our Introductory Astronomy courses. We have three optional courses that are suitable for a wide range of backgrounds. We hope that you will join us to uncover the mysteries of the Universe!

Introductory Astronomy Courses 2014/2015

There are three 20 credit courses in the 2014/2015 academic year. These are [Discovering Astronomy](#) and [Astrobiology](#) in semester 1 and [Introductory Astrophysics](#) in semester 2.

Please use the decision tree on the reverse of this brochure to decide which is the most appropriate course for you to take this year.

To take any of our Introductory Astronomy courses you need to make sure that you have free timetable slots on Monday and Friday afternoons for lectures and tutorials.



What is in the courses?

Discovering Astronomy (PHYS08039)

How did the Universe begin, and what is it made of? How do stars and galaxies form? Why are the Sun and Solar System the way they are?

If you want to learn the answers to these questions, in a course which uses mathematics no more complicated than simple algebra and trigonometry, then Discovering Astronomy is the course for you. We cover a wide range of topics including the origins of astronomy, the solar system, the Milky Way and other galaxies, and the start of the Universe, providing a broad introduction to Astronomy in a manner suitable for students of all backgrounds.

Astrobiology (PHYS08051)

How did life originate? What are the limits of life on Earth? What makes a planet habitable? Is there life elsewhere?

If you are interested in these questions, then astrobiology is the course for you. By examining the history of life on Earth, its adaptations to extremes, the characteristics of other planetary bodies and the astronomical conditions for planets to form, this course provides a basic introduction to some key concepts and ideas in physics, astronomy, biology and geology and their interdisciplinary connections.

Introductory Astrophysics (PHY08050)

Why is the night sky dark, if the Universe contains an infinite number of stars? How can the colours of stars tell us about their core chemical reactions? What is the physics behind black holes and the dark Universe?

If you would like to use your high-school physics skills to understand some of the most amazing observations of the Universe around us, then this course is for you. This course will develop your physics problem solving skills by applying them to different astronomical themes.

Timetable and Location?

Discovering Astronomy: Semester 1

Monday 14.10: Appleton Tower LT2
Monday 16.10: Appleton Tower LT1
Friday 14.10: Appleton Tower LT2
+ weekly 1hr Teaching Studio tutorials,
Mon at 17.10 or Fri at 13.10 (AT M2a)

Astrobiology: Semester 1

Monday 14.10: Old College LT 270
Friday 14.10-16.00: Old College LT 270
Lecture includes a 10 min break
+ fortnightly 2hr tutorials on Mo at 15.10

Introductory Astrophysics: Semester 2

Mon & Fri 14.30-16.00: JCMB LTA (KB)
Lecture includes a 10 min break
+ weekly 1hr Problem Solving Workshops,
Monday or Friday at 16.10
JCMB Teaching Studio 3217

Coursework and Tutorials:

Each course has assessed coursework exercises and a series of tutorial assessments. Introductory Astrophysics also has a weekly online quiz which counts towards the final mark.

Visits:

Those enrolled on an Introductory Astronomy course are welcome to join one of the weekly Friday evening Popular Observing sessions at the Royal Observatory. Your visit can be booked free of charge by contacting the Royal Observatory Visitors Centre on vis@roe.ac.uk.