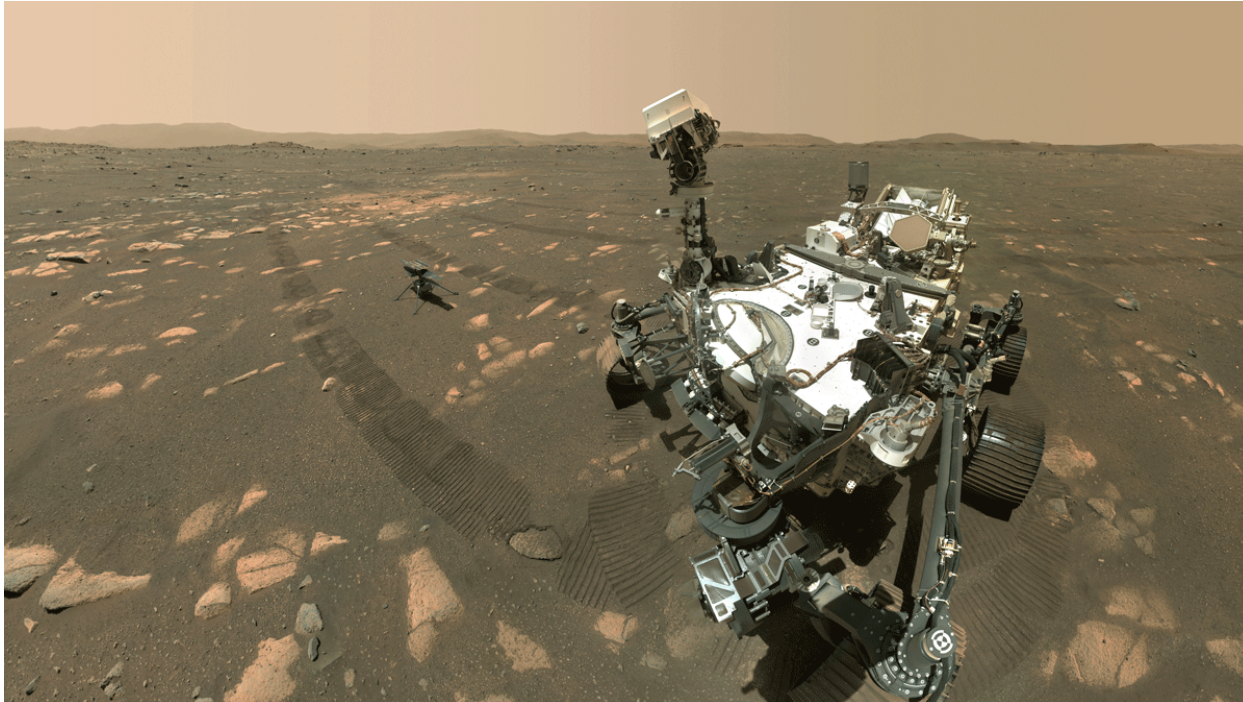


The Solar System

GEL 036 Syllabus Winter 2022



[Perseverance Rover with Ingenuity Helicopter on Mars \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Catalog description: 4 units. Nature of the sun, moon, and planets as determined by recent manned and unmanned exploration of the solar system. Comparison of terrestrial, lunar, and planetary geological processes. Search for life on other planets. Origin and evolution of the solar system.

GE credits: Science & Engineering, Visual Literacy, Writing Experience

Lectures: MWF 10:00-10:50 in the new Teaching and Learning Complex Room 1215.

Instructor: Professor Sarah Stewart

E-mail: [Please use the Canvas email function to contact me. It is the fastest way to reach me.](#)

Office hour: 11:00-11:50 pm on Fridays in Earth and Planetary Sciences Room 2127

Teaching Assistants:

TA	Email	Office Hours	Office Hours Location
Haoyuan Li	hylli@ucdavis.edu	Tue 2:10-4:00 pm, Fri 11:00 - 11:50 am	EPS 2205
Adriana Postema	anpostema@ucdavis.edu	TBD	EPS TBD

Discussion sections & TAs:

Section	Day	Time	Location	TA
A01	Tuesday	3:10-4:00 pm	EPS 1316	Haoyuan Li
A02	Monday	12:10-1:00 pm	EPS 1316	Adriana Postema
A03	Tuesday	11:00-11:50 am	EPS 1309	Adriana Postema
A04	Wednesday	12:10-1:00 pm	EPS 1316	Haoyuan Li

A note about discussion section: You must attend the discussion section for which you are officially registered. If you need to miss a particular discussion section on a given week, you should talk to the TAs about attending a different section in advance.

Course Goals:

- Practice applying quantitative skills and scientific reasoning to understand scientific problems and concepts
- Practice and improve your reading, writing and visual communication skills to learn and explain scientific concepts
- Create links between concepts to appreciate the diversity of planets and our place in the universe
- Build the skills to be a lifelong learner, informed citizen, and space exploration enthusiast

Help/Questions/Issues:

We encourage you to ask questions and notify us of any problems as soon as possible. For discussion section related questions (assignments, grades, term papers), your TA is your first point of contact. If you have questions about the material from lecture you can contact the professor or either TA. Between the three of us, you have several options to see us in office hours to go over material or answer questions.

Computer requirements:

You will need access a computer or tablet and internet that will allow you to operate basic computer software and access and navigate Canvas and other websites. You will need the ability to view lecture materials online, complete quizzes, and written assignments using Canvas and other basic computer programs.

Textbook:

The assigned readings and instructor recordings are a required and will be source material for quizzes and exams.

Main book: [Astronomy by OpenStax \(PDF File](#) [Download PDF File\)](#)

Class structure:

GEL 036 is 4 units, composed of 3 hours of lecture (MWF) and 1 hour of section work (M, T, or W) focused on discussion, lab exercises, and writing assignments.

Lecture: It is important to come to class. You will spend *much* less time attending class and listening to lecture, asking questions, seeing images and listening to explanations than trying to teach material to yourself.

Discussion sections: Discussion section material and homework are posted on Canvas. Each GEL 36 discussion section meets once a week to discuss a topic in planetary science. The TAs will go over discussion topics & assignments with you in your section each week.

The discussion sections are intended to be straightforward and relevant. The discussion section activities (homework and writing assignments) are **worth 50% of the overall class grade**, so it is important to attend and accumulate the points. The sections are key to fulfilling the general education objectives for **writing experience and visual literacy**. The sections will walk you through the writing assignments to make this part of the course as straightforward as possible. **Discussion section attendance is part of your grade!**

Note that the timing of a particular discussion topic does not always overlap with lecture topics. In the long run of the course, the topics complement each other and will be integrated by the end of the quarter.

Course Assignments and Grading Structure:

- **Writing assignments** = 30% (assignment 1=20%; assignment 2=10%)
- **Discussion sections** (in person participation/attendance and homework/exercises) = 20%
- **Final exam** (in class) = 20%
- **Midterm exam** (in class) = 15%
- **Online quizzes** (based on lectures and assigned readings) = 15%

Grading standards:

An excellent student is one who	A satisfactory student is one who	A student who needs improvement
<p>Attends class regularly and is prompt. Comes to class prepared to engage fully in the activities. Participates in class and is supportive of the participation of their peers. Is willing to ask questions and ask for help from peers, the TAs and the instructor. Completes excellent work and submits it on time. Learns to independently reflect upon, digest, and connect concepts covered in the course. Solicits and incorporates feedback into their work.</p>	<p>Attends some of class. Comes to class prepared enough to participate intermittently. Does not participate regularly in class, interrupts or ignores the participation of their peers. Asks for help both from peers, TAs, and the instructor occasionally. Completes satisfactory work and submits it on time. Has adequate study habits but does not fully master the course content. Incorporates some feedback into their work.</p>	<p>Attends class infrequently. Comes to class unprepared and will rarely participate in the activities. Does not participate in class, interrupts, or actively shuts down the participation of their peers. Will not ask for help from peers, TAs or the instructor. Completes work that needs improvement or is not on time. Does not study effectively. Will not incorporate feedback into their work.</p>

Letter grade scale:

A	90.0-100%	An excellent student
B	80.0-89.99%	Working towards being an excellent student
C	70.0-79.99%	A satisfactory student
D	60.00-69.99%	Working towards being a satisfactory student
F	0.0-59.99%	Needs improvement

Letter + and - will be used, with the expectation of the top and bottom 3% of each letter grade. Do not expect a grading curve at the end of the course. If there are any adjustments to the scale they will be minor. You can guarantee earning a specific letter grade by successfully completing the course material corresponding to the scale above. Once the final grades have been posted, the grades are final. Only data entry errors will be corrected.

There is a penalty for late discussion section and writing assignments: (0-24 hrs late; -25%), (24-48 hours late; -50%), (> 48 hours late; no credit). Exceptional circumstances for late course work must be arranged in advance with the TAs.

Quizzes will be online via Canvas. They will be brief (5-10 questions) and available for a several day window. They are just designed to help you keep up with course material and get experience seeing questions similar to what will be on the midterm and final exam. They are open note/open book without a time limit. You can take the quiz up to 2 times keeping the highest score. But you will not see the correct answers until the quiz closes. No late or make up quizzes unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Exams will be in person during the lecture hour. Study guides will be provided. **There will be no makeup exams except in cases of university excused absences.**

Course Expectations and Policies

Student Responsibilities	Instructor and TA responsibilities	Community responsibilities
Attend lectures. Come to class prepared. Submit complete work on time. Attend and participate in section discussions. Ask questions, ask for help.	Come to class prepared. Generate prompt and constructive feedback. Foster an environment where students feel safe asking questions, and for help.	Be respectful of every person in the course. Be willing to work with and learn from everyone.

Attendance:

Main lecture: It is assumed you will attend lectures and are responsible for the material presented. There will be no recordings for in-person lectures. This quarter we are lucky enough to be placed in a brand new classroom that is designed to maximize small group interaction. Although this class was not developed with such a space in mind, we will try to adjust the course to increase the level of interaction that is enabled by the classroom.

Discussion section: Attendance is mandatory. There are no make-ups for in-section activities without a valid excuse (i.e., illness or emergency). If you miss a discussion section, your first point of contact about make-ups for valid excuses is your TA.

Policy on sharing class resources:

By enrolling in this class, all students agree to not upload the recordings to other platforms. The online course resources, notes, videos, and quizzes contain copyrighted images and **no course material should be uploaded to 3rd party commercial website**, including, but not limited to Course Hero without written consent of the course instructor. This is in direct violation of the student code of academic conduct, specifically the subsection:

Misuse of an instructor's course materials or the materials of others:

- Posting or sharing any course materials of an instructor without the explicit written permission of that instructor.
- Purchasing or copying assignments or solutions, to complete any portion of graded work, without the instructor's permission.
- Unauthorized use of another student's work.

So please do not do it.

Collaboration policy:

Activities in discussion sections are meant to be group-oriented and participatory. Homework assignments from sections should be completed on your own. **Homework that appears to be copied will be sent to Student Judicial Affairs.**

Plagiarism:

This course includes writing assignments that satisfy the Gen Ed writing requirement. The papers must be original work with no collaboration. Explanations of proper citation style and plagiarism are included in the term paper assignment. Refer to UC Davis site on [Academic IntegrityLinks to an external site.](#)

Code of Academic Conduct:

All students enrolled in GEL 036 are required to read the [Student Code of Academic ConductLinks to an external site.](#)

Accessibility and Special Accommodations:

If you have concerns regarding accessibility or have a need for special accommodations for exams or lectures, please contact the UC Davis Student Disability Center (<http://sdc.ucdavis.edu>). After they confirm the need in consultation with you (the student), they will notify me and we can work together to find a solution. However, keep in mind this must be done well in advance of an exam and it is the student's responsibility to initiate the process early enough in the academic term. Logistics for accommodations related to exams must be finalized no later than 2 weeks prior to the first exam.

Resources for Students and Community Members

[Link to a compilation of several campus resources for students.Links to an external site.](#)

[And another comprehensive compilation of student resources.Links to an external site.](#)

Copyright Notice:

All materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, in-class materials, eCampus materials, and exams, are copyrighted. You DO NOT have the right to redistribute these unless I expressly grant permission. Posted lecture notes can be printed for your sole use and cannot be redistributed.