

SYLLABUS: PERS 2002 Scientific Perspectives on Global Problems

**LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS
HONORS SECTION**

Fall 2002, Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 3:20 pm,
430 Aderhold Learning Center (Computer #82380)

(on the WWW at <http://www.chara.gsu.edu/~gies/PERS2002/index.html>)

- Instructors: D. R. Gies, 719-1PP, (404) 651-1366 (Physics & Astronomy),
W. C. Elliott, 340-KH, (404) 463-9548 (Geology), &
J. E. Houghton, 416-SCA, (404) 651-0549 (Biology)
- Objectives: To examine the question of whether we are alone in the Universe from a scientific perspective. The course will cover basic elements of astronomy, physics, geology, and biology to help understand the origin and development of life on Earth. We will study environments on Earth and other worlds where life might thrive.
- Textbook: *The Search for Life in the Universe, 3rd Edition*,
by D. Goldsmith and T. Owen, 2001 (University Science Books).
- Grades: Meeting participation 10%
Essay 10%
Best 3 out of 4 tests 60%
Final Exam 20%
Students are expected to do their own work and to abide by the Policy on Academic Honesty discussed in the University General Catalog.

Schedule: The Honors Section will meet on the same TR schedule as the main PERS 2002 class and on the following Fridays, 3:00 – 3:50 pm.

- Sept. 6: 340 Kell Hall, Geology research
- Sept. 20: 732 One Park Place, Astronomy research
- Oct. 4: 510 Natural Science Center, Biology research
- Oct. 18: 732 One Park Place, Discussion on UFOs
- Nov. 1: 732 One Park Place, Discussion on the Fermi Paradox

Unexpected circumstances may require changes in the syllabus as the semester progresses.