Instructor: Dr. Perry A. Gerakines
Email: gerak@uab.edu
  - Use this as your primary method to contact me
  - Put “AST 105” in the subject line of each email message you send

Office: Since I am not located in Birmingham, we will not be able to meet in person. However, if you do need a person (for signatures or other task that cannot be completed by email or telephone) please see Dr. Rob Mohr (rmohr@uab.edu), in Campbell Hall room 382.

Office Hours: In lieu of actual “office hours”, I would be happy to meet with anyone over Blackboard collaborate or Skype at a mutually agreed-upon time. Please send me an email to arrange a time.

Course Website: accessible to enrolled students through Blackboard Learn. All assignments, lectures, and grades will be posted there.


Course Topics:
  - the general nature of the Universe as a habitat for life
  - the nature of life on Earth and how life developed
  - where life might exist elsewhere in the Solar System
  - where life might exist in other parts of the Universe, and if it's intelligent, how we might interact with it

Course Objectives: Conceptual understandings: stars and their properties, galaxies, light, gravity, the origins and fate of the Universe, habitats for life in the Universe, chemical and environmental requirements for biology, using astronomical tools to detect planets and life in other planetary systems

Some Logistics:

Weekly assignments: Each week, you will be required to complete the Learning Module for the current chapter from the text. The Learning Module will be made available to you on the website before the end of the previous week. Each module will include a few tasks, such as reading the current week’s chapter of the text, watching the current week’s lecture, and completing a short assignment. All assignments will be completed on-line. Instructions will be posted on the AST105 Blackboard site.

Examinations: One mid-term and one final exam will be given on line. Please make sure you have the Respondus Lockdown Browser installed on your computer. Installation instructions will be posted on the AST105 Blackboard site.

Exam Dates: Midterm Exam on Feb 26th, Final Exam on April 23rd

Grading Policy: Your course grade = 60% Assignment grade + 20% Mid-Term Exam + 20% Final Exam. All grades will be rounded to the nearest 1% and assigned according to the following:
  A : 90% or greater,  B : 80-89%,  C : 70-79%,  D : 60-69%,  F : 0-59%