

Understanding Astrobiology Winter 2018

Topics covered:

Week 1: Intro and Overview

- Astrobiology and searches for life
- Understanding different methods, locations and meanings

Week 2: Technology & Searches

- SETI
- Drake Equation
- Methods and current efforts and changing views of "life"

Week 3: The Solar System: Understanding our space neighborhood

- Origin
- Evolution
- Characteristics
- Habitability
- Space exploration missions

Week 4: Astrobiology on Earth: Lab Research and Field Analogues

- What if we find ET?
- Policy and Societal Concerns

Week 5: Exoplanets: Taxonomy and New Understanding

Week 6: Policy Questions and Challenges Ahead

- Human missions beyond Earth's orbit
- Commercial uses and exploitation of space resources
- Life's future: Asteroid hits? Settlement on Mars?