A course syllabus is not the same as a course outline. A course syllabus outlines the general requirements for a course. A course outline is the specific document created by the individual faculty member to distribute to a specific course section. This is an “abbreviated” course syllabus because it is only collecting information on the course number, title, description, and learning outcomes. Please submit this completed form electronically to Dean Britton.

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes made to the Course Number, Title, or Catalog Description must go through the regular faculty governance process. This Expedited Process of Approval, which expires in March 2012, only pertains to approval of the Learning Outcomes. Therefore, this is NOT the form to be used to change course numbers, titles, or descriptions. This is NOT the form to use for proposing a new course. (See the Governance website for those types of proposals.)

I. **Course Number and Title:**

AST 103/ES 26: Search for Life in the Universe

II. **Catalog Description:**

An introduction to the developing field of astrobiology. Scientifically established facts from astronomy, physics, biology and chemistry provide a framework for exploring the possibility of the existence of life beyond Earth. Current developments in space exploration as well as sociological/philosophical implications are discussed.

III. **Learning Outcomes:** *(Main concepts, principles, and skills you want students to learn from this course)* The Learning Outcomes listed here should be considered the minimum core outcomes for the course. Many other learning outcomes may also be a part of the learning experience within the course.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Make measurements using the metric system and perform simple forms of data analysis to enhance problem solving skills.

2. Identify the major stars and constellations and track the motions of the sky, the Moon, and planets by using a star finder and the horizon coordinate system.

3. Apply the scientific method to the question of the existence of life elsewhere in the universe.

4. Discuss the formation and evolution of life on Earth.

5. Demonstrate to the different philosophies regarding the presence of life in the universe and recognize how these philosophies reflect different time periods in human civilization.

6. Know the properties of the planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and other objects within the solar system and understand how those properties will affect the probability of life developing on those worlds.

*These statements must appear verbatim in course outlines. However, additional outcomes may be added to individual course outlines at the instructor’s discretion.

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7. Trace the evolution of stars in the Milky Way galaxy and determine which stars are suitable locations for life. Summarize the properties of the interstellar medium, star clusters, galaxies and other objects and their effects on the development of life.

8. Understand how the overall scale of the universe presents difficulties for interstellar space travel.

9. Discuss UFO’s and evaluate the possibility of their connection to extra-terrestrial beings.

10. Identify and evaluate space missions and other projects that have been designed for the purpose of locating extra-terrestrial life.

11. Comprehend the techniques employed by astronomers for locating extra-solar planets and relate their characteristics to the planets of our own solar system.

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Name of Discipline Lead:______________________________________________

Discipline Vote:
For__________ Against__________ Abstention__________

Date of Vote:__________

_(Initial and Date)_________ Certification of Vote by AVP of Academic Affairs

_(Initial and Date)_________ Certification of Vote by College Curriculum Chair

*These statements must appear verbatim in course outlines. However, additional outcomes may be added to individual course outlines at the instructor’s discretion.

Revised 1/10