

Abstract Submitted
for the TSF06 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Teaching of Astrobiology at UTA MANFRED CUNTZ, University of Texas at Arlington — In Fall 2003, the course “Astrobiology” has been introduced at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). This course is offered both at the graduate and undergraduate level, and is cross-listed between the Department of Physics, Department of Biology, and Department of Geology. The course is interdisciplinary in nature, encompassing selected topics of astronomy, stellar astrophysics, biochemistry, theoretical, evolutionary, and extremophile biology, geology, planetary science, and atmospheric physics. The outline of the course includes topics such as the nature and definition of life, origin and evolution of life on Earth, the search for life in the solar system, the possibility of life around different types of stars, including multiple stellar systems, stellar habitable zones, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), and the Fermi paradox. “Astrobiology” is now offered the third time, and has enjoyed a steady increase in popularity. In my presentation, I will discuss the underlying goals, my teaching experience, problems and opportunities, including feed-back from students.

Manfred Cuntz
University of Texas at Arlington

Date submitted: 21 Sep 2006

Electronic form version 1.4