










## SIO 87

### Big Ideas in Earth & Planetary Science

#### Instructor Info

-  Dr. Vashan Wright
-  Office Hrs: Thurs 2:30-3:30p
-  Munk 331
-  stripplab.ucsd.edu
-  vwright@ucsd.edu




#### Course Info

-  Prereq: None
-  Thurs
-  4-4:50p
-  Revelle Laboratory 4301

#### Lab Info

-  No Labs
-  N/A
-  N/A

#### Lab Instructor Info

-  No Teaching Assistant
-  N/A
-  N/A

#### Course Description

This course will introduce students to some of Earth and Planetary Science's biggest ideas and findings. Students will watch videos and discuss how these ideas/findings shape their worldview and interest in science.

#### Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand some of the biggest ideas that have shaped science.
2. Make new friends.
3. Feel more comfortable/confident participating in discussions in University classes.

#### Course Material

There are no required texts for this course. All materials for the course will be provided on Canvas.

#### Course Context

This classroom will be a place where students will be treated with respect. The professor will strive to create a welcoming environment for students of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, abilities, and other visible and non-visible differences. All class members are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other class member.

The professor's goal is to support and stimulate effective learning. This includes teaching in ways that are inclusive and accessible to all students. If a student has any situation that affects their ability to benefit from the material offered in the course, that student can request reasonable accommodations. Please inform the professor as soon as possible and contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (<https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/disability-services/>) for additional support.

All learning happens within cultural contexts. UC San Diego is located on the unceded traditional and sacred land of the Kumeyaay people, who still occupy this land and whose history, language, culture, and traditional ways of life continue to influence the greater San Diego community. Thus, the professor acknowledges that our class, life, and work occur on the unceded territory of the Kumeyaay nation, to whom we owe honor and gratitude. The professor's research and work also acknowledge the Taino people who lived on the Jamaican island territory and from which the professor recognizes part of his ascendancy and to whose elders the professor respects through his research and actions.

#### Grading Scheme

Students will receive a letter grade for the work they do in class. Grades will follow the following scale: A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F <60. The professor will round up students' final grades to the nearest whole number.

Grades are weighted as follows:

70%	Attendance
15%	Participation
15%	Reflection Piece

## Academic Integrity and Honesty

Students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the highest standards of academic integrity. An honest effort is expected of everyone. By continuing enrollment in this course, students pledge to abide by UC San Diego's Integrity of Scholarship Agreement (<https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/forms/form-scholarship-agreement.html>), which reads as follows (some modifications were made to adjust it to the present course):

1. No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any materials that contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.
2. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for themselves by another person.
4. No student shall plagiarize or copy another person's work and submit it as the student's own work.
5. No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work.
6. No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.
7. No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization. A student acting in the capacity of an instructional assistant (IA), including but not limited to teaching assistants, readers, and tutors, has a special responsibility to safeguard the integrity of the scholarship. In these roles, the student functions as an apprentice instructor under the tutelage of the responsible instructor. An IA shall equitably grade student work in the manner agreed upon with the course instructor. An IA shall not make any unauthorized material related to tests, exams, homework, etc., available to any student.
8. No student shall provide their assignments, in part or in total, to any other student in current or future classes of this course. No student shall procure or accept assignments from any other student from current or prior classes of this course.
9. For all group assignments, each group member is responsible for the academic integrity of the entire submission.
10. Each student is responsible for knowing and abiding by UCSD's Policies on Integrity of Scholarship and Student Conduct (<https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/student-conduct/>).
11. Any student violating these policies will earn an 'F' in the course and will be reported to the University for the violation.

## Tentative Class Schedule

### MODULE 1: How the Universe Works & Cosmology

Week 1	Space, Time, & General Relativity	Recommended Additional Video
Week 2	Quantum Mechanics & the Multiverse	Recommended Additional Video
Week 3	Quantum Field Theory	Recommended Additional Video; TBD: Class may be remote

### MODULE 2: Earth & Our Solar System

Week 4	The Deep, Exploring Earth's Frontier	Recommended Additional Video
Week 5	Environmental Pressures & Sustainability	Recommended Additional Video
Week 6	Next Steps in Space Exploration	Recommended Additional Video

### MODULE 3: Life & Aliens

Week 7	Evolution, from then till now	Recommended Additional Video
Week 8	The Search for Aliens	Recommended Additional Video
Week 9	Artificial Intelligence & Consciousness	Recommended Additional Video
Week 10	Interstellar Movie	Reflection Essay Due at Start of Class
Week 11	No Exam	