

SYLLABUS: ASTRONOMY 8900
GRADUATE SEMINAR IN ASTRONOMY
SPRING 2004

Coordinator: **Prof. Paul J. Wiita**

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Class Timings: Wednesdays, 3:00–3:50 PM

Room: 732 One Park Place

The first class (on 14 January) will be an organizational meeting involving only students formally enrolled in the class. Presentations for the semester will be assigned at that time, though a volunteer for the first talk (on 21 Jan) is requested at the time this syllabus is distributed. The second and subsequent seminars will be open to all astronomy students, faculty and staff.

Since the number of enrolled students is relatively small, each student will give two presentations this term. The topic for one of them will be:

RECENT ADVANCES IN ASTRONOMY

On the Monday two weeks before their presentation under this rubric is due, students will look through the previous week's astro-ph preprints and choose one that seems interesting and comprehensible. They will send me that paper by e-mail for approval of the topic by 11 AM on that Tuesday morning. Presentations based on that paper (and typically one or two others providing background in that field) will then be prepared.

The other main focus will be the traditional

PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH

by graduate students. Each student officially enrolled in the course will give a 40-45 minute talk on a research project s/he: has already completed before coming to GSU; is currently working on; or is expecting to begin shortly.

Since only four students have enrolled as of 31 December 2003, and I doubt more than two more might officially join, each enrolled student can anticipate giving two 40 minute presentations during the course of the semester. Faculty members and staff or students not officially enrolled in the course are invited to give lectures concerning aspects of their current research so as to fill up the weekly schedule.

There will be no seminar on March 10th during Spring Break and no seminar on March 17th during the week of Qualifying Exams.