

New Course Proposal

Course Number: Physics 150

Course Title (long): Introductory Special Topics in Astrophysics

Course Title (abbreviated): Intro Special Topics in Astro

Number of Credits: 3

Desired Attribute: N (Natural Science)

Course is For (CIM field): Academic Credit

Effective Term: Spring 2024, if possible; if not, then Summer 2024

Contact Hours (lecture): 3

Contact Hours (lab): 0

Contact Hours (other): 0

Course Description¹: This course investigates a current subtopic in astrophysics at the elementary level. Topic will be announced by the instructor at scheduling time. The course has no prerequisites and can be taken multiple times, provided the topic is different each time.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Equivalent Courses: None

Course Purpose/Reason for Change: The college of Lewis is starting a pre-college capsule summer learning program for rising 11th and 12th grade High School students. This program will thematically pair 3 topics. The first theme will be “Other Worlds” and the physics section will concentrate on exoplanets. No current class in the physics curriculum exists to allow for a lower level changing special topics curriculum, hence the need to create this new course. Upon completion of the course, students will have achieved college credit. This course may also, as faculty time and interest allows, be periodically offered to enrolled Illinois Tech students during the fall or spring semesters, primarily aimed at students looking to satisfy the N (Natural Science or Engineering) core curriculum requirement.

¹I modeled this text after other lower level “special topics” courses like SSCI 285 and SOC 285