

ASTR 205

Intro to Astronomical Research and Teaching

Fall 2017

Instructor: Asher Wasserman

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Office hours: by appointment, in CfAO 102 or its environs

Time: M/W/F 10:40-11:45

Location: ISB 356

This is a required course for first year astronomy graduate students at UCSC. The first two to three weeks will feature presentations and discussions led by UCSC astronomy faculty on research in the department. The remaining weeks will focus on how to be an effective teacher in a college classroom.

Goals

By the end of the course, learners will have:

- Gained confidence in their ability as teachers
- Developed tools and strategies to create a more effective, equitable, and engaging classroom environment
- Built up a repository of resources which can be referenced in their future teaching assignments

Assessment

Learners will be assessed through:

- Weekly teaching practicals
 - Feedback from both the instructor and other learners will be given immediately afterwards
- Weekly reading
 - Learners will share their initial thoughts on the assigned readings with their peers prior to in-class discussions
- Mid-course self-evaluation
 - Both to establish a mutual understanding of the level of engagement, and so that learners can give feedback on the structure and content of the course so far
- End-of-course teaching practical

Schedule

- Weeks 1 & 2 --- 10/02 - 10/13 --- Faculty talks
- Week 3 --- 10/16 - 10/20 --- Backward design, assessment, rubric & worksheet practical
- Weeks 4 & 5 --- 10/23 - 11/03 --- Tools for teaching, boardwork practical
- Week 6 --- 11/06 - 11/08 (off for Veteran's Day) --- Equity & Inclusion, midcourse evals
- Week 7 --- 11/13 - 11/17 --- Facilitation and metacognition, math review practical
- Weeks 8 & 9 --- 11/20 - 11/29 (off for W/F around Thanksgiving) -- public speaking
- Week 10 --- 12/04 - 12/08 --- final practical

Readings

Reading assignments will be sent out one week before they are due, typically on Mondays. It is expected that students complete the assigned reading and post questions and comments prior to the in-class discussion.

Accommodations

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office by calling (831) 502-2273. In addition, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide confidential, counseling support, (831) 459-2628. You can also report gender discrimination directly to the University's Title IX Office, (831) 459-2462. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD, (831) 459-2231 ext. 1. For emergencies call 911.

Faculty and Teaching Assistants are required under the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#) to inform the Title IX Office should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.