

Introducing Students (and Teachers!) to Astrobiology, a Multidisciplinary Topic

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Astrobiology can be defined as the study of the requirements for life and the investigation of life's origin and evolution. As such, astrobiology covers a broad range of topics in astronomy, chemistry, physics, biology, geology, and other subjects. In the US, an increasing number of colleges and universities offer introductory courses in astrobiology, and secondary schools (pre-university) are adding astrobiology topics to their curricula as well. Student fascination with astrobiology topics is usually very high, leading to motivation not always found in science courses, particularly among non-science students.

In this AOGS presentation we will review some of our own experiences with teaching astrobiology, including topics, course outlines, available texts, and class activities. We also will share some of the resources we have found useful.

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