FYS026 - Fall Term 2003
Cosmos: An exploration through space and time.

Professor:	Phone	E-mail
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Class Website: http://newton.uor.edu/facultyfolder/tyler_nordgren/FYS/index.html

Class Time & Location:

T,Th 2:30 – 3:50, Duke 102
W 1:00 – 2:20, Duke 100

Text:

"Cosmos" by Carl Sagan (ISBN 0394715969) Trade Paper or Hardcover edition. Do not be fooled into getting the small paperback version (you want all the pretty color pictures). $29.95 on Powells.com

Goals:

The goal of the class is twofold. The first is to learn about the history and future of our understanding about the universe in which we live. This encompasses an enormous range of topics: from evolution to astrology, from Egyptian archeoastronomy to the fate of the universe. The second goal is to learn about these ideas in the context of a liberal arts education at the University of Redlands. In learning about the ancient library at Alexandria we learn about the resources at a modern library and how to find information for papers. In learning about the origins of scientific thought we hear from professors in a wide range of departments and disciplines. In learning about the vast distances in space we map a scale solar system model onto the Redlands campus. In learning about what it means to be scientists, engaged in scientific thought, we learn what it means to be in college.

Organization:

Class time: There are 13 chapters in Cosmos and roughly as many weeks in the semester. Each week will cover a different chapter. At least one day a week will be devoted to discussion of the chapter. Two to three students will be assigned to lead discussion for each chapter. A second day will involve a variety of exercises designed to familiarize the student with the University. These will include: learning to use the library resources, meeting with faculty in other departments, some small laboratory exercises, etc. A third meeting time

will be devoted to watching the original PBS "Cosmos" episode based on that week's chapter and discussion of its relevance to today.

Observing: There will be one to two evening observing sessions either on campus or nearby in the mountains for viewing the sky through telescopes.

The dates for observing are:

Thursday, September 18
Thursday, November 20

Grading: Grades depend upon six things.

1. Attendance: (5%)
2. Participation in class discussion: (10%)
3. Preparation for leading discussion for the chapter assigned: (10%)
4. Class assignments: (25%)
5. Final paper assignments: (20%)
6. Final paper: (30%).

This class is a discussion. You are expected to do the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. Only by doing both of these on a regular basis can you hope to pass the course. In addition, much of the semester will be spent working on a final paper. There will be many assignments leading up to the final paper itself. These include, choosing a topic, finding sources, writing a thesis statement, revising that thesis statement, writing a rough draft. Completing all of these adds up to 20% of your grade. The final paper itself is worth as much as these assignments. However, successful completion of these assignments places you in an excellent position to do well on the final paper. The best way to succeed in this class, is the best way to succeed in college: *Keep up with the work, and you will be rewarded in the end.*