Course Logistics:

Class Time: Tuesdays from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm
Room 322 in the Physics Building (the CSP Conference Room)
Instructor: Dr. Robin Shelton
Office Hours: By appointment
Room 306A in the Physics Building

Course Content:

This course is designed to give students practice reading and presenting professional astronomy/astrophysics articles.

Students can choose articles of their liking from one of the peer reviewed journals for professional scientists. A good online database of articles is the Astrophysics Data System (ADS): http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract_service.html. An ADS search from a departmental computer should give you access to most of the relevant journals in the ADS database.

Although we have the room reserved from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm each week, the seminar presentations need only be ~50 minutes long. This leaves time for questions and answers during and after each talk.

Every student in the course will present at least one article during the semester. Occasionally faculty members in our department will also present articles.

The sign-up sheet and schedule of paper topics is posted on the web at: http://cosmos.physast.uga.edu/AJC/ajc.html. Please sign up during the first week of classes.

Tips:

• Talks are easier to understand when the speaker starts the talk with a 10 to 15 minute introduction of the topic. If you are wondering how you could possibly fill 10 to 15 minutes with intro, consider explaining the basic science issues being addressed, the type of observations or calculations being done, and how the research documented in your article relates to “bigger questions”.
• Practicing your talk ahead of time helps tremendously. It will help you to feel more comfortable and enable you to gather your thoughts more easily during your presentation.
• Including images (pictures, plots, even cartoons) will make your talk more easily understood and more entertaining.
• Another activity that helps is to start to get a feel for the style of questions being asked of the speakers and to try to anticipate some questions that could be asked about your talk.