

Astr 400/500 (the Astronomical Unit): Fall 2017

Astr 400/500 is a seminar course on current research topics in astronomy, astrophysics, and space physics, intended for juniors and seniors (400) and graduate students (500). Each week there will be 1 or 2 speakers which may include faculty, visiting scholars, or students. Students will be expected to give one oral presentation each semester.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: This course is primarily intended to expose the students to a range of astronomy related research being conducted in the department and more generally within the scientific community. The course is also intended to give students the opportunity to begin to develop their skills at giving oral scientific presentations. This second goal is particularly important for graduate students taking Astr 500.

Schedule

(schedule will be updated throughout the semester)

Aug. 23: Orientation

Aug. 30: Hurricane Harvey

Sept. 6: Edison Liang (Rice Univ.), “Relativistic Shear Flows and Astrophysical Applications”

Sept. 13: Paola Pinilla (Univ. of Arizona), “Rings, gaps and cavities in protoplanetary disks: What if there is no planets?”

Sep. 20: Andrea Isella (Rice)

Sep. 27: Laura Flagg (Rice)

Oct. 4: Jason Ling (Rice) / Erik Weaver (Rice)

Oct. 11: Asa Stahl (Rice) / Kun Hu (Rice)

Oct. 18: Yingchao Lu (Rice)

Oct. 25: Yannick Holtkamp (Rice)

Nov. 1: Lorenzo Venneri (Rice)

Nov. 8: Liang Visitor

Nov. 15: Rae Holcomb (Rice) / Maxwell Hummel (Rice)

Nov. 22: Juna Kreka (Rice)

Nov. 29: Brendan Bowler (UT Austin)