

NEW COURSE

Department: ORIGINS INSTITUTE  
Course Name: **ORIGINS 2S03**  
**ORIGINS SEMINAR 1**  
To be offered first in 2005-06  
Date: November 2004

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Calendar copy description:

**ORIGINS 2S03: ORIGINS SEMINAR 1**

An introductory survey concerning the concepts, literature, and research skills relevant to origins research. Faculty from the Origins Institute will provide papers for discussion in a seminar format.

One hour (seminar); two terms.

Prerequisite: registration in the Origins Research Specialization.

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Expected enrolment:

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Enrolment limited? If so, why?

Yes, to ensure that an environment that is conducive to developing skills in independent scientific research and self-directed, problem-based, and inquiry-based learning is provided to students.

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Other department(s) consulted.

Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Geology, Mathematics and Statistics, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology, Associate Dean of Science, Dean of Science, Provost, President

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Is this course cross listed? If so indicate course(s).

### Resource implications.

A \$7500 teaching buyout has been secured for this course. The course is designed in seminar format, so that, throughout any academic year, different instructors can participate. In total, approximately 26 sessions will be held each academic year. Given current membership in the Origins Institute, participating individuals can deliver as few as one seminar each year. Therefore, the time investment that will be required from each instructor will be minimal.

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### Detailed course content and reasons for introduction of course.

This course will provide an opportunity for undergraduate students who are enrolled in the Origins Research Specialization to start to develop skills in independent scientific research and self-directed learning and demonstrate aptitude for articulating information. Each week (over the Fall and Winter academic terms), one research paper will be chosen and disseminated by an Origin Institute faculty member to the students. That paper will be discussed the following week in a seminar format. Thus, the sessions will provide opportunities for students to bond with their Origins Research Specialization cohorts and Origins Institute faculty. At the same time, the course will provide for students a 'well-rounded' overview for origins research before they refine their interests during Levels 3 and 4.