University of Pretoria Yearbook 2021

Exploring the universe 154 (SCI 154)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	16.00
NQF Level	05
Programmes	BSc Computer Science
	BSc extended programme - Physical Sciences
	BSc Meteorology
	BSc Physics
Prerequisites	Prohibited combination SCI 164
Contact time	4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Physics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Students from all faculties are welcome to join us in our exploration of the universe from an earth-bound perspective. We reflect on the whole universe from the sub microscopic to the vast macroscopic and mankind's modest position therein. To what degree is our happiness determined by stars? Echoes from ancient firmaments - the astronomy of old civilisations. The universe is born with a bang. Stars, milky ways and planets are formed. Life is breathed into the landscape on earth, but is there life elsewhere? The architecture of the universe – distance measurements, structure of our solar system and systems of stars. How does it look like on neighbouring planets? Comets and meteorites. Life cycles of stars. Spectacular exploding stars! Exotica like pulsars and black holes.

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