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Course Information for:

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GI/M/PX021 ASTRONOMY 1 - IS THERE LIFE IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM?

Course fee: £84

Centre: Waingels Adult Centre

Start date: 5 Nov 2015 **End date:** 10 Dec 2015 **Start time:** 19:00 **End time:** 21:00

Day(s): Th **Duration:** 6 Weeks

Description:

The course provides an introduction to the main objects in the solar system and explains how they were formed. The course uses some of the latest images and data available from planetary spacecraft and uses the images to show what the conditions are like on the planets. The three main chances for life (apart from the Earth) in the Solar System are discussed.

Experience and/or Qualifications Required:

None, just a curiosity to understand what is out there in our local backyard

Course Objectives:

Know what the main astronomical objects in the solar system are
Understand how the sun is powered and how the solar system was formed
Discuss the latest images of the planets and why our understanding of the planets has changed in the last decade

Homework:

Look at the original images on the web

Materials:

Notebook and pen

Teaching Methods:

Audio visual. Discussion. Formal instruction. Practical demonstration if clear sky.

Assessment Method:

Ongoing Monitoring of Learner's Work/Progress

Progression on Completion:

Join the follow on course Astronomy - To the Stars and Back GI/M/PX022

Areas of Study:

What are the main objects in the Solar System and how were they formed
What is the sun and why is it essential to everything in the solar system including our well-being and weather on Earth
What are the inner planets and why are they all made of rock? Do the recent space missions answer the question: Is there life on Mars? Is Venus a close analogue of Earth and what does it teach us about the greenhouse effect?
Why are the outer planets gaseous? Is Jupiter a failed star and why are its satellites so important to Earth?
Why does Saturn have rings and what life is likely on its satellite Titan?
Is Pluto a planet and why did the Europeans change its status? What is the new mission telling us about Pluto
What are comets and where did they come from and did they give us all our water and start life?
What are meteors, meteorites and asteroids and can I see them?
What can I see with a small telescope of the planets? Why do some planets show phases like the moon and others don't?

Additional Costs:

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