

# Syllabus

## ASTR 270 - Public Outreach in Astronomy

### Instructors:

[James Davenport](#) (Jim) [Prof]

[jrad@uw.edu](mailto:jrad@uw.edu)

Office: [PAB 315](#)

[Anastasios Tzanidakis](#) (Andy) [TA]

[atzanida@uw.edu](mailto:atzanida@uw.edu)

Office: PAB 325

### Class Coordinates:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:50 AM, [PAA A212](#)

NOTE: Class location will shift to the **Planetarium** (2nd floor PAA at the end of the hallway) on several days, as well as the campus **Observatory** ([OBS 103](#))

<https://astro.washington.edu/uw-planetarium>

<https://astro.washington.edu/jacobsen-observatory>

## Course Goals

This course introduces students to the art and science of giving effective public presentations on astronomy and science topics to a wide variety of audiences. Topics will include techniques for writing and planning presentation content, methods for both in-person and online science communication, and tips for answering questions. Students will have an opportunity for hands-on learning with telescopes and the planetarium, and a variety of presentation locations.

In-class time will be highly interactive, with a mix of lectures, hands-on tutorials, and collaborative project development. Each student will produce two independent presentations about astronomy topics. Homework will be focused on analyzing science communication in a range of mediums. While the student presentations will be astronomy focused, the course is designed for any undergraduate who is interested in learning about and practicing science communication.

## Code of Conduct

We all agree to abide by the relevant [codes of conduct](#) for UW, including those regarding academic misconduct and personal behavior. All cases of suspected academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean's office. Absolutely no harassing or disruptive behavior will be tolerated, either in-person or online. If you experience anything untoward during the course, by any classmate or the instruction team, please report it promptly to the professor or the Astronomy Department's academic coordinator.

## Health Considerations

It is possible we will course experience disruptions due to illness. You or people who depend on you may get sick. Your instructors or their dependents may get sick. We shall all show grace and compassion wherever possible. Please be honest and considerate about where your comfort level is, and I will do the same. Masking in class is always welcomed, and we will enforce any relevant UW and Washington State guidelines.

**If you are feeling unwell please do not come to class!**

## Course Evaluation

Homeworks: 40%  
Projects: 60%

This course is primarily focused around creating a final project: an online outreach presentation. There will be several benchmark assignments along the way, with multiple opportunities for feedback and discussion with the instruction team. The course is not graded on a curve. An approximate grading scale based on UW guidelines is provided below. Grades will be provided on the Canvas gradebook.

No extra credit is available.

Late work is not accepted by default, but we are always happy to make reasonable accommodations as needed - please reach out to the instructors.

