

# Alien Life

## The Search for Life in the Universe

<b>Course #</b>	21FALN
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderators:</b>	Dottie Rosenthal Martha Hanner
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/30/2021
<b>Format:</b>	Online
<b>Maximum number of participants:</b>	18
<b>Auditors accepted:</b>	Yes, up to 2

**Purpose:** The purpose of this seminar is to pursue the question of whether life exists elsewhere in the universe. That question goes back to ancient times, but interest in it has increased with time, especially in the Space Age.

**Description:** We will begin with a brief history of ancient beliefs in alien life and trace the continuing interest in alien life to the present in fiction and in science. We will review the basic chemistry of life on Earth and then focus on the search for life beyond our planet, and even our Solar System. We will conclude by considering what the discovery of life beyond Earth might mean for humans and other life as we know it.

**Role of participants:** The moderators will provide a list of possible topics. Participants will select a topic from that list or a topic of their own choosing (with the approval of the moderators). Participants will make a presentation on their topics to the group and lead a discussion based on their topics.

**Resources:** There are many sources on the possible topics. Participants will be given an extensive list of relevant resources and, because the search for alien life is ongoing, will want to review current sources for additional information.

**About the Moderators:** Dottie Rosenthal is a science educator, with a special interest in biological evolution. She taught biology in secondary schools and science education at the State University of California, Long Beach.

Martha Hanner is an astronomer and planetary scientist. She has worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California and taught astronomy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Both are experienced moderators for 5CLIR together and separately.