MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	**Origins**					
MODULE CODE	AA3051 (L6)	**JACS CODE**	**F500**	**CREDIT VALUE**	**20 Credits**	
DATE OF APPROVAL	*April 2017*				**VERSION NUMBER**	1
SCHOOL	**Physical Sciences and Computing**		**PARTNER INSTITUTION**		**N/A**	

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MODULES

Co-requisites	**NONE**	**Pre-requisites**	**None**	**Excluded Combinations**	**None**

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

- Enable students to investigate the scientific highlights of current astronomical research.
- Give students insight into the scientific method for investigating problems.
- Encourage students to research recent literature in preparing presentations and participate in mature discussions with other students.
- Provide practice in maintaining a portfolio of work on current topics in astronomy or astrophysics

MODULE CONTENT

This module is based on a selection of topics that are drawn from those projects that are regarded as “cutting edge research” in astronomy or astrophysics. In general the module will concentrate on the topics that are likely to be featured in the media or play an important role in national research programmes.

Origins of:-

The universe (including the large scale structure and dark matter)
Life in the Universe
Stars
Planetary systems

Large astronomical instrumentation (e.g. new telescopes, satellites, detectors.)
Computational infrastructure for astronomy (e.g. Astro-grid).

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	analyse the scientific motivation for current initiatives in astronomy research and how these drive the planning and development of major research programmes.
2.	prepare a critical literature review of a current research topic.
3.	critically assess information and concepts and draw conclusions from them.
4.	use IT resources at a high level to deliver a scientifically mature seminar.
5.	summarise and communicate scientific ideas.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The method of assessment for this module has been designed to test all the learning outcomes. Students must demonstrate successful achievement of these learning outcomes to pass the module. *Only summative assessment should be included.*

Number of Assessments	**Form of Assessment**	**% weighting**	**Size of Assessment/Duration/ Wordcount**	**Category of assessment**	**Learning Outcomes being assessed**
1	Seminar Presentation	25%	Equivalent to 20 mins (max 15 slides)	Coursework	3,4,5
1	Critical/analytical essay	35%	1500 words	Coursework	2,3,5
1	Portfolio of student seminars	40%	Write-ups of about 3 seminars Approx 2000 words	Coursework	1,3

MODULE PASS REQUIREMENTS

To pass this module you must achieve a mark of 40% or above, aggregated across all the assessments.

APPENDIX

MODULE CODE: AA3051 (L6) **MODULE TITLE:** Origins

LOCATION OF STUDY: *UCLAN CAMPUS*

MODULE TUTOR(S)	Dan Holdsworth, Barbara Hassall

MODULE DELIVERY	Semester Long	Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3		
	Year long	Semester 1 & 2	✓	Semester 2 & 3				
	Other (please indicate pattern of delivery)	DISTANCE LEARNING						

MODULE LEARNING PLAN

All modules should include details of the average learning time based upon 200 hours per 20 credits.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Distance learning students will learn via self-study according to a Module Schedule, supported by distance learning material supplied by the Course Team via Elearn. To fulfil the seminar aspects of the module, students will be required to participate in on-line discussions in classroom meetings and via the noticeboards. The Elearn student presentation facility will be used to enable students to see each others' seminars and contribute to class discussion.

Presentations will be submitted electronically with full referencing and notes of the commentary to accompany each slide. Students will create mini presentations for informal feedback and to gain experience in interacting in the question and answer sessions in the discussion forums, before submitting their assessed seminar.

All assessments in this module require students to research and critically assess information and concepts and draw conclusions from them.

- The assessed seminar in addition will develop their IT presentation skills and their ability to participate in mature question and answer sessions, similar to a seminar environment.
- The assessed essay will develop the students' ability to prepare a critical literature review of a current research topic.
- The portfolio will encourage the students to participate in the online discussions and hence contribute to the learning community essential to this module. It will also show their ability to critically analyse information, carry out further research and draw their own conclusions.

SCHEDULED LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITY	**No of hours**
On-line tutorial (DL students)	
TOTAL SCHEDULED LEARNING HOURS	6
GUIDED INDEPENDENT STUDY	
Reading lecture notes	
Reviewing course notes	
Exercise questions	
Background Reading	
Working on coursework assignments	
Reflection on feedback	

TOTAL GUIDED INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS	194
TOTAL STUDENT LEARNING HOURS ***These must add up to 200 hours per 20 credits***	200

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND LEARNING SUPPORT MATERIAL

On-line Booklist: http://readinglists.central-lancashire.ac.uk/search.html?q=AA3051