Topic: Solar System and Exoplanets (5 lectures)
Lecturer: Jane Luu

Description: An overview of our solar system, its contents, and its formation. After that we will discuss the general attributes of the known exoplanets, and how they compare to our planets.

Syllabus:

Lecture 1: The Solar System
• The structure of the solar system
• Planets and their satellites
• Small bodies: comets, asteroids, meteorites
• Orbits in the solar system
• Formation of the solar system

Lecture 2: The planets
• Terrestrial planets
• Gas planets
• Ice planets
• Formation of the planets

Lecture 3: Small bodies in the inner solar system
• Asteroids: Properties, orbits
• Meteorites

Lecture 4: Small bodies in the outer solar system
• Comets: Properties, orbits
• Kuiper Belt objects, origin of comets

Lecture 5: Exoplanets
• Search for exoplanets
• The known exoplanets
• Similarities and differences between exoplanets and our own planets

Requirements: Video projector in the class room

Bibliography:
“Physical Processes in the Solar System,” by John Landstreet