



FEED your BRAIN at the ROM

Winter 2014 Course Outline

The Citizen Science Astronomer

Saturdays, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM with Mauricio Argote-Cortes

January 18, 2014

We will begin by exploring the Sun and how it influences us, from its importance in societies throughout history to the current scientific understanding that humans have achieved about our closest star. We will also discuss what Citizen Science Astronomy projects are and look at some Sun-related projects.

January 25, 2014

Today we will explore how we have built the current picture of our solar system. For the first time in human history, we know for sure that this is not the only planetary system in space. We will visit ROM galleries with artifacts that represent past cultures' worldviews of our solar system. We will also discuss citizen science projects aimed at unveiling new planets and understanding their formation.

February 1, 2014

The solar system's origin has been thought of as a great creation narrative, but it is more than just a good story. The formation of the solar system model is an achievement of human ingenuity and understanding and the search for evidence includes the Moon, as well as our neighbour planet, Mars. We will examine a few of the ROM's meteorites to learn how these objects can act as time capsules. Several citizen science projects are currently devoted to broadening our understanding of our solar system formation and evolution.

February 8, 2014

Finally, we will embark upon on a bigger question concerning our place in the Universe. We will see how ancient cultures addressed this concept in celestial inspired art. We will take a journey around impressive stars, galaxies and admire the view from the International Space Station. We will close our series with some of the most recent citizen science projects, where you can help investigate galaxy formation or hunt for black holes. Perhaps, along the way, you will develop a new zest for discovery and be inspired to participate and contribute.