205071 - Introduction to Planetary Atmospheres

**Coordinating unit:** 205 - ESEIAAT - Terrassa School of Industrial, Aerospace and Audiovisual Engineering  
**Teaching unit:** 748 - FIS - Department of Physics  
**Academic year:** 2019  
**Degree:** MASTER'S DEGREE IN SPACE AND AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2016). (Teaching unit Optional)  
MASTER'S DEGREE IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2014). (Teaching unit Optional)  
**ECTS credits:** 3  
**Teaching languages:** English

### Teaching staff

**Coordinator:** ENRIQUE GARCÍA MELENDO

### Prior skills

During the lessons, students will need a background on basic physics (fluid mechanics, black body radiation, spectroscopy, astronomy).

### Teaching methodology

The course is divided into parts:
- Theory classes.
- Self-study for assimilating concepts and doing the final assignment.

During the theory classes, the teacher will introduce the theoretical concepts, methods and results. During the self-study hours students will need to work on the materials provided by the teacher in order to fix and assimilate the concepts.

The final assignment will require from the students to work on groups and to manage their time in order to develop a project.

### Learning objectives of the subject

In space missions it is important to have a knowledge of environments found when exploring other planets, specially those with an atmosphere. For this reason in this course we will focus on the diverse solar system atmospheres found in other worlds, including a wide variety of diverse phenomena. Some of the main goals are:
- Have a basic knowledge of some of the essential mechanisms of Earth’s atmosphere considering it as a global system and its application to other planets.
- Have a basic knowledge of the atmospheres of terrestrial planets.
- Have a basic knowledge of the atmospheres of the giant planets and some unique meteorologic phenomena related to them.
- Analyze basic planetary data to experimentally illustrate phenomena found in planetary atmospheres.
# Study load

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total learning time: 75h</th>
<th>Hours large group:</th>
<th>27h</th>
<th>36.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours medium group:</td>
<td>0h</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours small group:</td>
<td>0h</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guided activities:</td>
<td>0h</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self study:</td>
<td>48h</td>
<td>64.00%</td>
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# Content

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM

**Learning time:** 6h  
- Theory classes: 2h  
- Self study: 4h

**Description:**  
General view of the structure of our Solar System and the main properties of planets and satellites.

## TERRESTRIAL PLANETS

**Learning time:** 40h  
- Theory classes: 15h  
- Self study: 25h

**Description:**  
We begin with the Earth's atmosphere structure, its radiative equilibrium and greenhouse effect, global circulation and important related phenomena, clouds, etc. Most of these aspects are also reviewed for the rest of the terrestrial planets, following with the atmospheres of Venus and Mars. The atmosphere of Titan is also considered.

## THE GIANT PLANETS

**Learning time:** 29h  
- Theory classes: 10h  
- Self study: 19h

**Description:**  
Review of the atmospheres of the giant gas planets, Jupiter and Saturn, and the icy giants Uranus and Neptune. We will see some relevant phenomena such as the general circulation, giant convectice storms, waves, vortices, clouds, etc.
Attendance to classes and participation in practical exercises will be a 40% of the total grade. 60% of the rest of the grade will depend on a class presentation and a document on a topic related to the subject of the course.

Any student who does not have a satisfactory grade, will have the opportunity to take an additional global exam that will take place the date fixed in the calendar of final exams. The grade obtained in this test will range between 0 and 10, and will replace that of the previous tests only in case it is higher.

**Bibliography**

**Basic:**


**Complementary:**
