THE UNIVERSE
Christopher F. Chyba, John R. Gott, Anatoly Spitkovsky, Michael A. Strauss  AST 203
This specially designed course targets the frontier of modern astrophysics. Subjects include the planets of our solar system, the birth, life, and death of stars; the search for extrasolar planets and extraterrestrial life; the zoo of galaxies from dwarfs to giants, from starbursts to quasars; dark matter and the large-scale structure of the universe; Einstein's special and general theory of relativity, black holes, worm holes, time travel, and big bang cosmology. This course is designed for the non-science major and has no prerequisites past high school algebra and geometry. High school physics would be useful.

POLICY SEMINARS
Harold A. Feiveson  WWS 402
In policy seminars students work in groups first formulating the general problem, then engaging in individual research on subtopics, and finally presenting their inferences for discussion and debate and producing a collective policy report.

NUCLEAR ENERGY IN A CARBON-CONSTRAINED WORLD: FISSION AND FUSION
Alexander Glaser, Robert J. Goldston  AST 309 / MAE 309 / PHY 309
Concern about climate change and improved operation of nuclear fission power plants are creating the potential for a 'renaissance' of nuclear fission power. The recent international agreement to construct a major fusion energy experiment (ITER) to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion on an industrial scale is increasing interest in the practical application of fusion power. This course will introduce the history, science, technology, and economics of both fission and fusion, with special emphasis on both societal risks, such as nuclear weapons proliferation, and societal benefits, such as reduced CO2 emissions.

FRESHMAN SEMINAR -- LIFE IN A NUCLEAR-ARMED WORLD
Zia Mian  FRS 140