

Extraterrestrial Life: Homework #4

Due, in class, Tuesday March 18th

Assignment: Both NASA and the European Space Agency have ambitious plans for the future exploration of Mars, much of it directed toward the search for life. Write a paper on the topic of “Future exploration of Mars” that explains what you think is the most important science we should do on (or from orbit around) Mars, and how that science can be accomplished with a future mission. There’s no correct answer of course – you might consider orbiters, landers, rovers, sample return missions or human exploration when thinking about this.

Format: aim for two pages, double-spaced, not including references and any illustrations or figures that you include. Word-processed please!

References: please cite any sources that you use. A suitable format for e.g. referencing the textbook or websites is:

In the text – refer to sources in parenthesis (Bennett & Shostak) or using a number key (1)

In the reference list:

- (1) “Life in the Universe”, Bennett & Shostak, p. 175
- (2) “JPL Mars Exploration Program”, <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>

Note: the fact that you reference a source does *not* mean it’s OK to cut and paste the text.

Grading: we will not be grading on the details of your argument – well-reasoned essays that are easy to read will all score highly. We will deduct points for lack of references, and for essays that are brief, sloppy, or otherwise seem to have been done at the last minute. No credit will be given for essays that duplicate someone else’s work, or which include verbatim material found on the web.