Introduction

This assignment is your opportunity to introduce yourself and your background. Please write a short paper, (try for three pages), addressing the following points:

1. What do you expect to get out of this course? Why did you choose it?
2. What courses have you taken which you think are relevant?
3. Have you read books about Geology, or Evolution, or the Origin of Life, or Biochemistry, or Genetics? What were they and what did you think about them?
4. What are the last 3 books you read for pleasure -- either books that were not assigned for any course, or books that were assigned that you enjoyed?
5. Are you aware of any strong preconceived notions that you have about the subject matter in this course? For example -- what is Man's place in the Biosphere? In the Universe? Some people may not have any strong preconceived notions.

Note that all papers written for this course, including this small introduction, should be submitted with correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Legibility is important, and it would probably be best if papers could be composed on a computer and printed out.

I think one week is probably enough time for this first paper.

Course Rules

Attendance in seminar classes is required. Missing more than three classes will lower your grade. You are expected to do the assigned reading, both in books and handouts. During class discussions, I will keep track of participation. Sitting through a discussion without speaking for an entire period counts against you, and doing that repeatedly will lower your course grade. I am considering giving short quizzes at the start of certain classes to ascertain who has done the assigned reading. If this is done it will not be announced in advance. There will be a quiz which will cover the small amount of "hard facts" that are covered. This quiz will be announced well in advance, and will count toward your grade. Generally, if you attend class, do the reading, participate in discussions and write well you should expect an A in the class.