

GEL 120 - Origins: From the Big Bang to Today
David Osleger, Dept. of Earth & Planetary Sciences

Spring, 2017

Textbook: *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything* (Christian, Brown, & Benjamin, 2014)

Date	Topic	Threshold	Reading
April 3	What is Big History? Scales of Space & Time		Introduction
April 5-10	Big Bang	----- <i>Threshold 1: Big Bang Origin of the Universe</i>	Chapter 1
April 12-17	Stars and Elements	----- <i>Threshold 2: The Stars Light Up</i> ----- <i>Threshold 3: New Chemical Elements</i>	Chapter 1
April 19-24	Our Solar System & Early Earth	----- <i>Threshold 4: Earth & Solar System</i>	Chapter 2
April 26 – May 1	Origin of Life & Early Life Great Oxygenation Event	----- <i>Threshold 5: Emergence of Life</i>	Chapter 3
May 5	<i>Midterm 1 (20%)</i>		
May 3, May 8-10	Origin of Continents, Snowball Earth		Chapters 2, 3
May 12-17	Phanerozoic Earth & Life		Chapter 3
May 19-26	Quaternary Climate & Human Evolution	----- <i>Threshold 6: Homo sapiens</i>	Chapter 4
May 22	<i>Project due (32%)</i>		
May 31 – June 2	Agriculture & Civilization	----- <i>Threshold 7: Agriculture</i>	Chapters 5, 6
June 5	Expansion, Interconnection & Modernity	----- <i>Threshold 8: Modern World/Anthropocene</i>	Chapter 11
June 7	Great Acceleration, Anthropocene, the Future		Chapter 12
June 13, 1-3 pm	<i>Midterm 2 (28%)</i>		