

Gamify Your Class for Fun and Equity

Dr. Katie Berryhill

Katie Berryhill, kberryhill@laspositacollege.edu



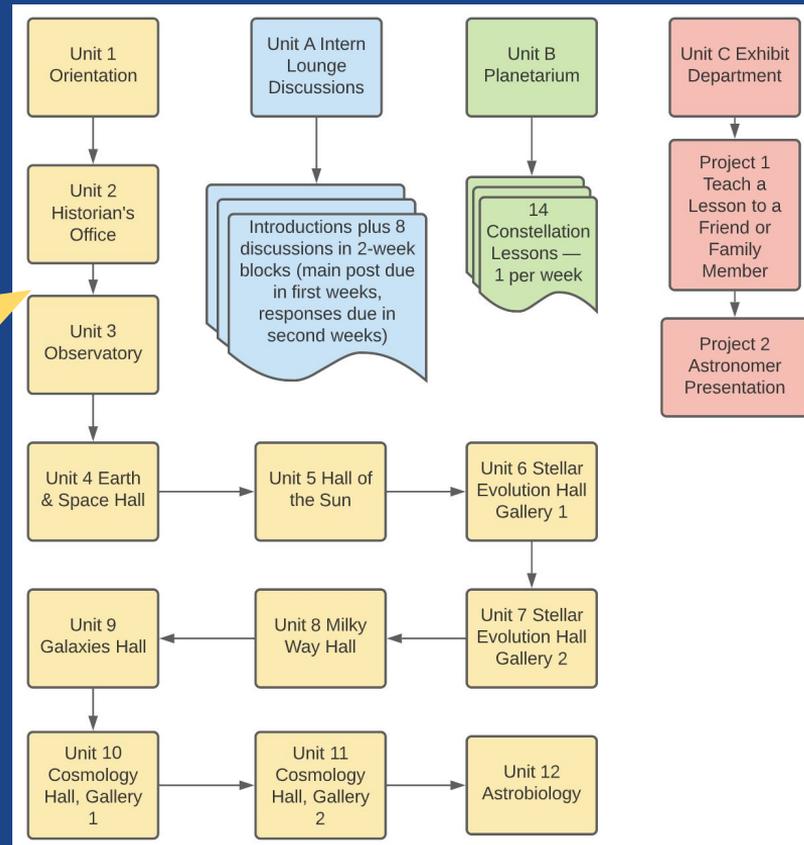
Astronomy Intern Training Program AKA Introduction to Astronomy

- ❖ Inspired by Professor Jim Martenev (Los Angeles Valley College)
- ❖ Students in imaginary intern training program at science center
 - Goal: learn about astronomy in order to be an “explainer”
- ❖ Aims:
 - Flexibility, especially during pandemic
 - Inexpensive (OpenStax textbook)
 - Equitable, mastery-based grading
 - Usable in both synchronous and asynchronous modes

Class Structure

- ❖ 12 sequential units of main content
- ❖ Planetarium unit
 - Weekly lessons cover 1-2 constellations each
- ❖ “Exhibits Department” unit
 - Projects that involve teaching someone else (or pretending to)
- ❖ “Intern Lounge”
 - Asynchronous class: discussions in ~15-person “Intern Cohort” groups
 - Synchronous: live class participation
- ❖ “Finale”—Live Zoom “escape room”
 - Small groups solve puzzles using what they learned in class

Structure & Flexibility



Due dates, but then additional two weeks to improve mastery

Badges Instead of Gradebook



- Earn badges for each level of mastery in each unit
- Course grade based on numbers of badges

Equitable/Mastery-Based Grading

- ❖ Badges earned based on scores on “appraisals”
 - Automatically get two attempts
 - Earn additional attempts by coming to office hours
- ❖ Discussion/Project grades
 - “Well done”, “Good”, “Getting There”, “Not Quite”, “No Rating Possible”
 - Missing assignments 50 instead of 0

Brainstorming

- Let's discuss...
 - What has this triggered in your mind?
 - How might any of these ideas work in your discipline?

Workshop Evaluation



Katie Berryhill, kberryhill@laspositacollege.edu