

# Learning Astronomy Through An Immersive Science Fiction Experience

*Thursday 18 July 2024 12:00 (15 minutes)*

I present a new method of teaching that blends a science fiction narrative into an intermediate level astronomy course. “The Salvation of the Yggdrasil” is a sci-fi scenario where students must solve a series of challenges to guide the people of an intergenerational spaceship through a catastrophe and set them safely back on their journey to a new home amongst the stars. Each challenge requires the students to conceptually understand and apply the astronomy and physics concepts presented in the class, while also building proficiency in the skills of problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and interdisciplinary work. Based on the principles of Self-determination Theory, the curriculum is designed to give students opportunities to explore their own interests in an environment that strongly instills a sense of intrinsic motivation. This presentation focuses on the methods the class uses and initial observations and results from the first run of the class.

## Alternate track

### I read the instructions above

Yes

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**Session Classification:** Education and Outreach

**Track Classification:** 15. Education and Outreach