<table>
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<th>OU Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>SXM150</td>
<td>CONTEMPORARY TOPICS IN SCIENCE</td>
<td>October to March</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>This innovative and flexible course allows you to tailor your study by choosing from a list of topics across all the science disciplines. This course will make use of OpenLearn and other OU topic content. Depending on the length of the topics chosen, you may focus on one topic or study three different topics. The end of course assessment will explore what you have learnt along with the skills you have developed to be a successful science student.</td>
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Single topic subject choices include:

- Galaxies, stars and planets which explains how the Sun gets its energy and how astronomers observe the Sun and its interior as well as providing an introduction to the planets and their satellites.
- Molecules, medicines and drugs: a chemical story which focuses on the chemistry that underlies the development of drugs and medicines that relieve pain and effect cures as well as how drugs interact with and affect their target areas in the human body.
- Plants and people which explores the role that plants play in our everyday lives, in food, biofuels, bioplastics and medicines as well as their role in combating climate change.
- The Frozen planet which explores the wonder of the polar world and explains how ice has shaped and controls our planet.

Or alternatively you can make up your own topic by choosing **three** topics from the following options:

- An introduction to exoplanets
- Astronomy with an online telescope
- Citizen science and global biodiversity
- Discovering chemistry
- Microgravity: living on the International Space Station
- Moons of our Solar System
- The science of alcohol
- The science of nutrition and healthy eating
- Understanding antibiotic resistance
- Understanding autism

This course requires 2 - 4 study hours per week.