**America’s Space Program: From Apollo to SpaceX**

**Public Affairs 113\*.\*\*, Freshman Seminar**

**Semester, 1 Credit Hour**

**Monday, 5-7 PM (7 weeks)**

##### Instructor: Office

Caroline S. Wagner, PhD Page Hall Room 210U

[Wagner.911@osu.edu](mailto:Wagner.911@osu.edu) 614-292-7791

**Office Hours**

Tuesday-Thursday 9-11 or by appointment

# Course Description

In the 1960s, the United State of America undertook a great adventure of putting humans into outer space. The epic saga is infused with triumph and tragedy. Many political, social, and technological factors are interwoven in the remarkable achievements tied to America’s space program. This class will explore America’s commitment to space travel, beginning with the Apollo Moon Landing Program by examining the political reasons for its creation, the role of the public in providing support, and the technology that succeeded in supporting this monumental achievement. Following the mission to the Moon, America’s space program has taken unexpected turns, and now we see the rise of the private sector in plans for outer space. We will study the rise of SpaceX and other plans to put both cargo and humans into space over the long term.

# Texts

*Apollo and America’s Moon Landing Program,* John Logsdon (available on Amazon Kindle)

*Into the Black: JPL and the American Space Program, 1976-2004*, P. Westwick (Kindle)

**Course Policies**

Detail your expectations for:

* Students are expected to attend each seminar (with 1 allowed absence)
  + *Instructor will provide pizza and drinks*
* Students will read ahead in order to engage in lively discussion
* A final 4-page policy proposal will be written to outline goals for future space exploration

# Grading

This course will result in a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade.

**Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf>).

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

#### Weekly Schedule

### **Week 1 – The Vision for the Apollo Program**

READ: *Project Apollo* – textbook Chapters 1-4

### **Week 2 – America’s Space Program: The Role of Nazis and Communists**

READ: *Project Apollo* – textbook Chapters 5-8

### **Week 3 – The Politics of Outer Space**

READ: Apollo program descriptions, www.nasa.gov/mission\_pages/apollo/missions/index.html

History quiz: win space ice cream!

### **Week 4 – Reassessing America’s Mission: NASA Changes Course**

READ: Apollo 7, 10, 11, 12 www.nasa.gov/mission\_pages/apollo/missions/index.html

### **Week 5 – Triumph and Tragedy (Apollo 13 movie night)**

READ: Into the Black: Chapter 1-4

### **Week 6 – SpaceX, Virgin Galactic, and Private Space Missions**

READ: “What it Took” <http://qz.com/281619/what-it-took-for-elon-musks-spacex-to-disrupt-boeing-leapfrog-nasa-and-become-a-serious-space-company/>

**Week 7 – The Future of Space Exploration**

Write: Your final 4 page policy proposal for the future of space exploration for group discussion tonight.

### **Optional – Class Field Trip to NASA Glenn-TBD**

Saturday after the class is completed

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