

**SPACE POLICY INSTITUTE  
ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

IAFF 3190.10  
Fall 2014

Tues/Thurs, 12:45 - 2:00 pm  
Room 111, 1957 E ST, NW

**Space Policy**

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Synopsis

This course is an examination of the origins, evolution, current status, and future prospects of U.S. space policies and programs. It will cover the U.S. government's civilian, military, and national security space programs and the space activities of the U.S. private sector, and the interactions among these four sectors of U.S. space activity. This examination will be cast in the context of the space activities of other countries, and of international cooperation and competition in space. The goal of the course is to give the student an exposure to the policy debates and decisions that have shaped U.S. efforts in space to date, and to the policy issues that must be addressed in order to determine the future goals, content, pace, and organization of U.S. space activities, both public and private.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate that they understand and can communicate fundamental concepts in U.S. space policy.
- Students will be able to discuss and assess how the U.S. scientific and technical space communities have adapted to changing national and international conditions.
- Students will acquire the background knowledge and understanding of current issues that will allow them to analyze and evaluate U.S. space policy debates against multiple national interests (e.g., military, economic, diplomatic).

Grading

This is very much a reading and writing course. Each week during the term, students will be expected to come to the course meeting familiar with the assigned readings related to that week's topic and able to participate in discussions. A 1-page memo on a relevant topic will be due most weeks. These memos are typical of what might be expected by a senior decision maker asking for information or a staff recommendation. Grades will be based on seven 1-page memos (each worth 7%) and a 10-12-page (~4200-5000 words) term paper (worth 50%) on a topic of the student's choosing, subject to approval of the instructor. The due date for the term paper is December 9. Papers should be submitted electronically to [space1@email.gwu.edu](mailto:space1@email.gwu.edu). A hard copy of the paper is optional but appreciated.

### Readings – Required Texts

Launius, Roger D., and Howard E. McCurdy, Ed. *Spaceflight and the Myth of Presidential Leadership*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997. Available at Amazon.com

Moltz, James Clay. *Crowded Orbits: Conflict and Cooperation in Space*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014. Available at Amazon.com

Hays, Peter L. and Lutes, Charles D., ed. *Toward a Theory of Spacepower*, Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2011. Available at <http://www.ndu.edu/press/spacepower.html>

### Readings - Optional Texts

Burrows, William E. *This New Ocean: The Story of the First Space Age*. New York: Modern Library, 1999

Krige, John, Angelina Long Callahan, and Ashok Maharaj. *NASA in the World: Fifty Years of International Collaboration in Space*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

McDougall, Walter A. *The Heavens and the Earth: A Political History of the Space Age*. New York: Basic Books, 1985

Moltz, James Clay. *The Politics of Space Security: Strategic Restraint and the Pursuit of National Interests*. Palo Alto: Stanford Security Studies, 2008

Wright, David, Laura Grego and Lisbeth Gronlund. *The Physics of Space Security*. Cambridge: American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2005

Vedda, James. *Becoming Spacefarers: Rescuing America's Space Program*. Xlibris Press, 2012

Additional course readings will be posted on Blackboard or be available on CD.

Guidelines for 1-page memos: The policy memos should be written as if you are advising the President on options in responses to a specific event (e.g., what should be the U.S. reaction to the Soviet launch of Sputnik) or developing situation (e.g., an increasingly capable Chinese space program). They should concisely cover the most important issues affecting a national level decision. Memos should be no longer than 1-written page using 12-point Times Roman font, 1-inch margins, and single-spaced. Either Modern Language Association (MLA) or Chicago format are acceptable for citations. The page limit may be exceeded if adding a graphic to make a point more clearly. The memos will be graded for accuracy, clarity, objectivity and choice of evidence. The page limit will be challenging but making key points succinctly is an important skill in many fields. A sample template is included with the readings.

Guidelines for term paper: The paper will be graded in the same manner as the 1-page memos; for accuracy, clarity, objectivity, and choice of evidence. The paper is an opportunity to explore a particular topic in some depth and thus additional weight will be placed on the demonstrated quality of research, analysis, and insight. Students are encouraged to discuss potential topics with the instructor early in the course as this can provide additional time for finding sources.