

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

International Affairs 6145.10  
Fall 2014

Thursday, 5:10-7:00  
Conference Room in Suite 403  
1957 E ST, NW

**U.S. 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 space cooperation and competition. 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 the basic concepts of 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).

Approach

This is very much a reading and lecture course. Each week during the term, students will be expected to come to the course meeting familiar with the substantial amount of assigned readings related to that week's topic. Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard but the readings are important to understanding the slides. The written assignments for the course (and the primary basis for assigning a grade) will be three 9-12 page (~4000-5000 word) papers, each addressing a particular question or issue. Each paper is worth 33% of the final course grade. The due dates

for the papers are September 25, October 30, and December 1. The specific assignments for each paper are given below. Papers should be submitted electronically to [space1@email.gwu.edu](mailto:space1@email.gwu.edu)

### Course Schedule

August 28	Introduction: Why Go Into Space?
September 4	Origins of U.S. Space Policies and Programs
September 11	Apollo and Its Impacts
September 18	What Do You Do Next When You've Been to the Moon?
September 25	NASA – From <i>Challenger</i> to <i>Columbia</i>
October 2	Vision for Space Exploration
October 9	The International Context of the U.S. Space Program
October 16	The Evolution of Commercial Space Activities
October 23	The Evolution of National Security Space Activities
October 30	Making Space Secure and Sustainable
November 6	Making National Space Policy
November 13	The U.S. Congress and Space
November 20	<i>Quo Vadis</i>
November 27	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday
December 4	A Conversation with the NASA Administrator (planned)

### Readings

Most course readings are contained in a compact disk that will be available by August 18. Other course reading will be distributed in the course of the semester.

### Class Policies

Late work will receive grade deductions based on the number of days the item is late. The amount of the deduction is at the instructor's discretion.