Course Description
Starting with how humans imagined space exploration long before NASA was created, this class will look at many different aspects of the history of space exploration throughout the semester. In addition to listening to lectures, reading texts and watching videos, students will conduct oral histories with members of Auburn’s community. In this way, students will learn more about the role of space flight in the lives of everyday individuals. In addition, several topic experts will be joining class discussions.

Student Learning Objectives
- SLO1. Historical Knowledge: Students can apply knowledge of diverse areas of history and historical thought in order to support interpretation.
- SLO 2. Historical Research: Students can collect, identify, and analyze primary and secondary sources in order to evaluate and create original historical arguments.
- SLO 3. Written Communication: Students can analyze and synthesize historical information in order to structure and defend written historical arguments.
- SLO 4. Oral Communication: Students can verbally discuss and defend historical arguments in formal and informal group settings.

Required Books
**General Format**
Mondays and Wednesdays, we will focus on the topics of the week with short lectures, discussion of the readings, and other in-class activities. Fridays are “workshop” days for preparing to conduct oral history interviews with members of the Auburn community. I will invite experts in the field to talk to our group on occasion when their schedules permit.

**Grading**
20% = Participation (SLO4)
20% = Reading quizzes (SLO1)
30% = Responses to assigned books (SLO1, SLO3)
30% = Oral history, transcript, and reflective essay (SLO2)

I want all of you to do well, so please do not hesitate to contact me (or drop by my office) with any questions during the term. Note that all deadlines are final, and I do not offer extra credit opportunities under any circumstances.

**Attendance**
You can earn up to 2 bonus percentages for near perfect attendance and appropriate class behavior* but you will fail this course if you miss more than six meetings unexcused. Perfect attendance = missing less than three meetings unexcused.
*For appropriate class behavior, see sections on “Academic Integrity & Classroom Behavior” and “Respecting each other.”

Important note: If I notice you using an electronic device outside of a class activity, you will lose the potential for earning bonus points.

Absences will be excused only if you have a written excuse that complies with the Auburn University Student Policy eHandbook, section I, subsection 5, points 1–5 (I.5.1–5); no other excuses will be acceptable for this course (per I.5.6). Note that I reserve the right to lower the grade of any student who is habitually late or leaves early regularly.

**Assignments**

**Participation**
I expect you to work on being heard regularly during our discussions. If you find it hard to do that, talk to me during office hours, so we can strategize how you can deal with any obstacles. As a group, we will determine what criteria to use for participation grades at the beginning of the semester. At the end of the semester, we will vote for the three students who should have a guaranteed A for their participation.

**Reading quizzes**
To support your efforts to regularly read the weekly assigned material, you will take short quizzes at the beginning of our class meetings, which I will grade intermittently.
Responses to assigned books
I have assigned three books for you to read in tandem with our weekly readings. At the time the reading of these books should be completed (see schedule), I will post a few questions about them on Canvas for you to respond to in a limited amount of time. In order to be able to answer the questions in a timely manner, be sure to have read the books by the respective deadline.

Oral history & reflective essay
On Fridays, we will learn about the ins and outs of oral history and prepare you for your own oral history interview during the second half of the semester. I will post all pertinent material on Canvas. The end product that determines your grade includes an interview with a family member or friend, a completed oral history with a member of Auburn's community, a transcript of the oral history and a reflection essay. See detailed instructions on Canvas.

Technology in the Classroom
We will use electronic devices in this class, so I encourage you to bring your laptops, tablets, etc. That said, I want to be clear that you may only use these devices for class related activities. If you don't already know how to do this, you need to learn how to resist the temptation to check your email, social media sites, or pursue any other activities that are not pertinent to the course. In addition to losing the opportunity to earn points for near perfect attendance, you could lose points from your overall grade, if I find you using your electronic devices for anything other than course work.

Policy on Makeups
Tests and quizzes may be made up only in extraordinary circumstances. Makeups will be granted if you have a written excuse that complies with the Auburn University Student Policy eHandbook, section I, subsection 5, points 1–5 (I.5.1–5); no other excuses will be acceptable (per I.5.6). A qualifying excuse must be presented to me within 5 days of the missed test or quiz. We will then schedule a makeup time and place.

Academic Integrity
In accordance with Auburn University policies, no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. This includes: plagiarism, inappropriate collaboration, work done for one course and submitted for another, deliberate falsification of data, interference with other students’ work, and copyright violations. For a full explanation of the rules and procedures related to academic integrity violations, review Auburn University's Student Academic Honesty Code at: https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/Policies/AcademicHonestyCode.pdf.

Communication and Office Hours
Outside of class, I will communicate with you regularly via email and Canvas, so you need to ensure that you have access to these tools and that your university email address is set up correctly. Be sure to check your email regularly, and I will do the same! I want you to succeed, so I am happy to help during office hours if you have questions concerning the lectures, discussions, your grades, the readings, or the assignments. If you cannot meet me during office hours, let me know what your availability is, and I will try to meet you at a different time.
Sources for Additional Support
Auburn University is committed to providing educational opportunities to a broad range of students, including those with special educational needs. If you require accommodations, arrange to meet with me during the first week of class. Bring an Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form, which you can obtain from the Office of Accessibility. I will comply with arrangements you may need, but it will be your responsibility to remind me of any special requirements and/or arrangements for any session, especially when there is a test.

For additional support, the following institutions on campus might be helpful:

- Office of Accessibility, 334-844-2096, 1228 Haley Center
- Academic Support, 334-844-5972, 0176B RBD Library
- The Miller Writing Center, 334-844-7475, for locations, see: https://fp.auburn.edu/writing/writing-center/
- Student Counseling Services, 334-844-5123, 400 Lem Morrison Dr., Suite 2086
SCHEDULE

Week 1 – August 19, 21 and 23
Monday: Introduction
No assignments
Wednesday: SciFi Origins
Orson Welles, "War of the Worlds" (video)
Friday: Oral history - Introduction
NASA oral histories on C-SPAN (video)

Week 2 – August 26, 28, and 30
Monday: Early Rocketry
Wednesday: WWII
Friday: Oral History – How To

Week 3 – September 2, 4, and 6
Monday: Our Germans vs. Their Germans
Wednesday: Competing with the Soviets
Friday: Oral History - Applied

Week 4 – Sep 9, 11, and 13
Monday: Military vs. Civilian
Wednesday: Soviet Program
Friday: Oral History - Practice
No assignments
**Week 5 – Sep 16, 18, and 20** - *Interview a family member or friend this week*

**Monday: Persuading the Public**


**Wednesday: Mercury, Gemini, Apollo**


**Friday: Oral History - Practice**

Submit interview with a family member or friend

Sign up to listen to an interview conducted by other students

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**Week 6 – Sep 23, 25, and 27**

**Monday: The “Right Stuff”**


**Wednesday: The “Right Stuff”**


**Friday: Oral History – Practice**

Listen to an interview conducted by other students

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**Week 7 – Sep 30, Oct 2, and 4** - *Contact interviewee to arrange date, time, and location this week*

**Monday: Astronauts**

*First Man* (Damien Chazelle, 2018) (142 min.)

**Wednesday: Cosmonauts**


**Friday: Oral History - Practice**


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**Week 8 – Oct 7, 9** (Fall Break)

**Monday: Spacefarers – Guest: James R. Hansen**

No assignments

**Wednesday: Apollo – Societal Impact**

Week 9 – Oct 14, 16, and 18 - **Start oral history this week**

**Monday: The Shuttle Era**

**Wednesday: The Shuttle Era**

**Friday: No Class meeting**

**Week 10 – Oct 21, 23 - **Complete oral history**

**Monday: Humans or Robots**

**Wednesday: No Class meeting**

**Friday: No Class meeting**

**Oral histories must be completed this week**

Take home exam: Neufeld, Michael J. *Spaceflight: A Concise History*

**Week 11 – Oct. 28, 30, and Nov 1**

**Monday: Space Stations – Guest: Roger D. Launius**

**Wednesday: Space Science: Mission from Planet Earth – Guest: Roger D. Launius**

**Friday: Oral History - Practice**

Sign up to listen to an interview conducted by other students

**Week 12 – Nov 4, 6, and 8**

**Monday: Space Science II: Mission to Planet Earth**

**Wednesday: Mars**
Friday: Oral History - Practice
Listen to one other student’s interview

**Week 13 – Nov 11, 13, and 15**
**Monday: Global Impact**

**Wednesday: Environmental Impact**
**Friday: Oral History - Practice**
No assignments

**Week 14 – Nov 18, 20, and 22**
**Monday: Internationalization**

**Wednesday: Commercialization**
**Friday: Oral History - Practice**
No assignments

**Thanksgiving Break, Nov 25-29**

**Week 15 – Dec 2, 4, and 6**
**Monday: Militarization**
Gretchen Heefner, “Missiles and Memory: Dismantling South Dakota’s Cold War,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 38 (Summer 2007): 181-203.

**Wednesday: Remembering the Space Age**
Launius, Roger D. *Apollo's Legacy: Perspectives on the Moon Landings*
**Friday: Oral History - Practice**
No assignments

**Due Wednesday, December 11, at noon:**
Oral history with transcript & reflective essay

*Syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and on Canvas!*