

ASEN 3519 Special Topics: The Politics of Space Spring 2018

Instructor info: Phil Larson
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Rm 104, Dean's Office, Engineering Center

Class Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday, 5pm to 6:15pm, ECCR 151

Textbook:

Reference: Launius, Roger D.; McCurdy, Howard E.; Spaceflight and the Myth of Presidential Leadership, University of Illinois Press, 1997.

<https://www.amazon.com/Spaceflight-Presidential-Leadership-Roger-Launius/dp/0252066324>

Websites to check frequently:

www.nasawatch.com
www.spacenews.com
www.spacepolicyonline.com
www.thespacereview.com

Office Hours: M-F 3pm to 5pm

Prerequisites: None

Course Overview:

This course will guide students through the DC space policy world, from budgets to legislation to Executive Orders and memorandums. The Obama Administration occurred during a pivotal moment for the U.S. Space Program. After the retirement of the space shuttle, the space program was identified in 2009 by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office as a top challenge facing any new administration. The course will offer historical context for the steps that were taken over the last decade and offer a unique perspective on the decision making leading up to and resulting from changes in space policy. The course will also cover the commercial space sector and its recent impact on US and global space policy and how it fits with and is shaped by government policy. The course will also discuss the status of public-private partnerships in aerospace, the interconnectedness of the space industry, challenges and regulations facing aerospace companies, and the outlook for the future of space policy inside and outside of current and future administrations.

This course will be a mix of the history of space politics with current events. The Trump Administration reconstituted the National Space Council, which is chaired by Vice President Pence. Each student will be assigned a role on the council (e.g. Sec. of Commerce, NASA Administrator) and represent that position at mock Space Council meetings. Tuesday classes will focus on history of space policy; Thursday classes will be our Space Council meetings to discuss current issues.

Up to four debates will occur in class, outside of the space council meetings. Teams will be assigned midway through the semester. Essays, in the form of presidential memos, will be assigned periodically throughout the semester, and one major memo will be due at the last class.

Grading:

The course grade will be based on class participation, debates and 2 policy memos. There is no midterm or final exam. The overall grade will be determined using the following percentages:

Class participation	20%
Mid-term memo	30%
Debates	20%
Final memo	30%

100% to 96%	= A+
95% to 93%	= A
92% to 90%	= A-
89% to 86%	= B+
85% to 83%	= B
82% to 80%	= B-
etc	

Class Topics:

The following is the draft set of class topics. Content adjustments are expected during the semester based on current events, schedule progress and the availability of guest lecturers. This is very notional.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1/16	Overview and assign roles on National Space Council
1/18	Federal budget cycle and first meeting of NSC
1/23	Likely no class
1/25	Guest speaker Bill Nye + congress's role in space
1/30	Guest speaker Kumar Garg: How to write a memo for the president.
2/01	NSC meeting: Launch vehicle competition
2/06	Sputnik and the history of NASA/NACA and JFK/Johnson space policy
2/08	NSC meeting: Destination driven policy (moon vs mars, etc)
2/13	Nixon space policy
2/15	NSC meeting: Satellite internet
2/20	Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter space policy
2/22	NSC meeting: National security space
2/27	Ronald Reagan space policy
3/01	NSC meeting: Space tourism
3/06	George HW Bush and Clinton space policy
3/08	Debate #1: The Role of Humans and Robotics in Space
3/13	Guest speaker Neil deGrasse Tyson + George W Bush space policy
3/15	NSC meeting: International Cooperation
3/20	George W Bush space policy (continued)

3/22	Debate #2: The Role of Government and Commercial Industry in Space Spring Break
4/03	Guest speaker Lori Garver + Barack Obama space policy
4/05	Debate #3: Media Effects on Policy
4/10	Barack Obama space policy (continued)
4/12	NSC meeting: Prizes and challenges
4/17	Guest speaker: Cristin Dorgelo, X-Prize, White House
4/19	Debate #4: International Involvement: Collaboration or Competition
4/24	NSC meeting: STEM education
4/26	Discuss final memo
5/01	Guest speaker TBD
5/03	Final NSC meeting and policy memo submission

Unless otherwise indicated this class meets at the time and place assigned, each Tuesday and Thursday during the semester.

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Campus statements:

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

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Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to

individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the student code.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you are free to miss class as you see fit, just let me know. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by email at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Injuries guidelines](#) under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with your professor.

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