

Course title: The Space Race: A Cultural History in the Cold War

Language of instruction: English

Professor: Daniele Cozzoli

Professor's contact and office hours:

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credit: 6 ECTS credits

Course prerequisites: there are no prerequisites for this course

Language requirements: Recommended level in the European Framework B2 (or equivalent Cambridge Certificate)

Course focus and approach:

This course aims to study the historical roots of nowadays cultural dimension of the Space Race in the Cold War (1947 - 1991), with a special focus on the period between the Sputnik (1957) to the Apollo-Soyuz programme (1975), from the destalinization to the *détente*. We will frame the cultural aspects of the Space Race within the broader political, economic, scientific and technological context.

Course description: include here a brief description of the course contents (about 100 words)

Throughout the study of the public sphere, the pop-culture and the mass media, students will learn the complex dimension of the Space Race and of its centrality in the Cold War dynamics. We will study how the mass media shaped the public imagination in the USA and in USSR during the Space Race. The course will analyse how the mythologies of the 'frontier' both in the USA and in Soviet Union were extended to the interplanetary space. We will study how fears and desires were projected in the Space Race. We will see how each side conceived of the other both as an enemy and as a collaborator, how the Space Race was marketed in terms of competition and collaboration at the same time, becoming with the Apollo-Soyuz project the symbol of the *détente*. Throughout the reading of magazines, newspapers, as well as the analysis of TV shows, novels and science fiction movies, we will see how the Space Race influenced the daily life in the USA and in USSR, as well as gender, sex and ethnic relations. We will focus on memoirs of astronauts, engineers, politicians and policymakers and of other actors to see how the main characters of the story perceived the history of the Space Race and were perceived in the public sphere. The study of the cultural industry will allow us to unveil certain features of the making of what Dwight Eisenhower defined the military-industrial complex. We will also have a quick view to nowadays and future perspectives of the space conquest.

Learning objectives:

At the end of this course the students:

- will have acquired an in-depth knowledge of the cultural history of the Space Race in the context of the Cold War
- will have developed the ability of gathering information and of structuring it from primary sources between the 1950s and the 1990s
- will have acquired critical skills needed to analyze the cultural history of the Cold War

Course workload: Describe the type of workload here: readings, lectures, exams, field studies...

Teaching methodology:

The course is designed in an inter-active way. Students will work in class on primary sources: speeches of the main actors, newspapers and magazines articles, tv shows and movies, but also science fiction novels and cartoons. Occasionally, (non-technical) archival documents, such as NASA reports, will also be discussed. Emphasis will be placed both on the visual and on the material culture. Earth and Moon globes, toys and other gadgets of the Space Race time will be studied as forms of representation and circulation of knowledge. Four movies will be watched and students will have to critically work on them through the critical lens of what they have found in the primary and secondary sources studied.

Assessment criteria:

30% Class activities (discussion of the written texts, documentaries and objects presented both in small groups and in plenary session, oral presentations, etc)

40% (10% each) 4 short essays on the movies watched in class

30% Final written paper

BaPIS absence policy

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student’s final grade as follows:

Absences	Penalization
Up to two (2) absences	No penalization
Three (3) absences	1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Four (4) absences	2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Five (5) absences or more	The student receives an INCOMPLETE (“NO PRESENTADO”) for the course

The BaPIS attendance policy **does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Only absences for medical reasons will be considered justified absences. The student is deemed responsible to provide the necessary documentation. Other emergency situations will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the BaPIS.

The Instructor, the Academic Director and the Study Abroad Office should be informed by email without any delay.

Classroom norms:

- No food or drink is permitted in class.
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one one- hour session.
- ...

Weekly schedule:

WEEK 1

Session 1

Course description. Syllabus, assessment and readings. Introduction to the course requirements and method of assessment.

Session2

'From Stettin to Trieste an Iron Curtain has descended across the continent' ...the origin of the Cold War and the scientific and technological confrontation between the two Blocs

Required readings:

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. 1967. Origins of the Cold War. Foreign Affairs 46(1): 22 - 52.

HOBBSAWM, Eric J. 1994. The Age of Extremes 1914 - 1991, London: Abacus, chapter 8 'Cold War', pp. 225 - 56.

WEEK 2

Session 1

The Atomic Age: Screening of the documentary 'Atomic Café' 1982

Session 2

Destination Moon' ... Tintin, Von Braun, Tsiokolski: scientists and writers who dreamt of the Moon

Required readings:

Hergé, The Adventures of Tintin. Destination Moon. DuBois: Mammoth.

Hergé. The Adventures of Tintin. Explorers of the Moon. DuBois: Mammoth.

WEEK 3

Session 1

The 'Hidden Persuaders': mass media and the consumer society in 1950s and 1960s America

Required readings:

Packard, Vance. 1957 The Hidden Persuaders. New York: Ig Publishing, Chapter 13, 'Cures for our Hidden Aversions,' pp. 136 - 45.

COHEN, Lizabeth. 2003. A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America. New York, Vintage Books, a couple of chapters.

Session 2

The creation of the industrial-military complex

Required Readings:

LEDBETTER, James. 2011. Unwarranted influences: Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Military-Industrial Complex. Yale: Yale University Press, pp.

THORPE, Rebecca U. 2014. The American Warfare State: The Domestic Politics of Military Spending. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, chapter 1 'introduction: Perpetuating the US Military Economy' and chapter 2 'Presidential War Powers in Historical Perspective', pp. 3 - 46.

WEEK 4

Session 1

The Sputnik shock: Collaborating or competing?

Required Readings:

'The Sputnik', Time Magazine, Monday Oct. 14, 1957.

'The satellite. Why Reds got it first,' LIFE Magazine 21 Oct 1957

TEASEL, Muir-Harmony. 2020. Operation Moonglow. A Political History of The Project Apollo. New York: Basic Books, chapter 2 'Sputnik and the Policy of Spaceflight, 1957,9 pp. 33 - 52.

Session 2

Laika's window': the evolving human-animal relations in light of the experience of the first living beings in space

Required Readings:

CASWELL, K. 2018. Laika's Window: The Legacy of a Soviet Space Dog, San Antonio: Trinity University Press., chapter 3 'The Making of a Space Dog,' pp. 99 - 132 and 6 'First around the Earth,' pp. 196 - 226.

GEORGIU, Constantine. 1963. Ham the Astrochimp. New York: American Book Company.

HILLIARD, Richard. 2007. Ham the Astrochimp. Honesdale: Boyds Mill Press.

A Happy end for Ham's First Flight, LIFE, 10 February 1961.

WEEK 5

Session 1

'Man in Space: Russia's Yuri Gagarin' (title of Time Magazine). Astronauts as the new heroes

Required Readings:

'The Cruise of the Vostok,' Time Magazine, April 21. 1961

'Science: Freedom's Flight,' Time Magazine, Friday, May 12, 1961

Gerovitch, Slava. 2015. Soviet Space Mythologies: Public, Images, Private Memories, & the Making of a Cultural Identity, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, chapter 5 Human-machine Issues, the Cosmonaut Profession and Competing Visions of Spaceflight, pp. 98 - 127.

Session 2

Space and the Soviet Imagination

Required readings:

SIDDIQI, Asif A. 2010. The Red Rocket's Glare: Spaceflight and the Soviet Imagination 1857 - 1957, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 3 'Imaging the Cosmos', pp. 74 - 113

WEEK 6

Session 1

Screening of Solaris by Andrey Tarkovsky 1972

Session 2

Science fiction and the space race

Required readings for the week:

MAJSOVA, Natalija. 2021. Soviet Science Fiction Cinema and the Space Age. Lenham: Lexington Books, chapter 2 'Aelita's Mark and the Many Faces of Utopia,' pp. 26 - 56 and chapter 4 'The Space Age and Its Others: Soviet SF between Gagarin and Gorbachev,' pp. 81 - 102.

WEEK 7

Session 1

Screening of 'Hidden Figures'

Session 2

The 'Hidden Women' and 'the First Lady in Space': the space race and the gender question in the 1950s and the 1960s

Required Readings:

TERESHKOVA, Valentina. 2015. Valentina Tereshkova, the First Lady of Space, in Her Own Words. Spacebusiness.com

BOOTHE LUCE, Claire 'But some people simply never get the message,' LIFE, 28 June 1963, pp. 31 - 3.

Griswold, Robert L. "Russian Blonde in Space" Soviet Women in the American Imagination 1950 - 65. *Journal of Social History* 45(4), pp. 881 - 907.

WEEK 8

Session 1

NASA on the screen

required reading:

MEERMAN SCOTT, David - JUREK, Richard. 2014. Marketing the Moon: the Selling of the Apollo Lunar Program. Cambridge: MIT Press, 'A Modern Day Columbia: Fiction Makes a Giant Leap,' pp.1 - 34.

KAUFMANN, JAMES L. 1994. Selling Outer Space: Kennedy, the Media and Funding for Project Apollo, 1961 - 63. Tuscaloosa: Alabama University Press, chapter 4 'Life: NASA's Mouthpiece in the Popular Media, pp. 68 - 92.

Session 2

One small step for man, one giant leap for humanity'...the Apollo project

Required reading:

KAUFMANN, JAMES L. 1994. Selling Outer Space: Kennedy, the Media and Funding for Project Apollo, 1961 - 63. Tuscaloosa: Alabama University Press, chapter 1 'The Kennedy Administration's Lunar Campaign' and 2 'The Kennedy Administration and the New Frontier,' pp. 12 - 49

WEEK 9

Session 1

Screening of Apollo 13 1995

Session 2

Selling the Moon

Required readings:

Allen, M. 2009. Life from the Moon: Film, Television and the Space Race. London: Tauris, chapter 8 'One Small Step for Man, One Giant leap for Propaganda- Apollo 11,' and chapter 9 'Failure is nor an option, but was almost a reality - Apollo 12 - 14,' pp. 141 - 174.

WEEK 10

Session 1

The détente and the Apollo - Soyuz program.

Reading and class discussion:

SHER, Gerson S. 2019. From Pugwash to Putin: A Critical History of US-Soviet Scientific Cooperation. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, chapter 1 'The Deep Cold War and the Exchange Program,' pp. 10 - 30.

Session 2

Life on Mars'...the Space Race in the 21st century 1

Required readings:

WHITEHOUSE, David. 2020. Space 2069: After Apollo, Back to the Moon, To Mars, and Beyond. New York: Icon Books, a couple of chapters

A visit to the CosmoCaixa Planetarium will be organised

Last revision: May 2022.

Required readings:

Course reading pack prepared by the instructor.

Gerovitch, Slava. 2015. Soviet Space Mythologies: Public, Images, Private Memories, & the Making of a Cultural Identity, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

TEASEL, Muir-Harmony. 2020. Operation Moonglow. A Political History of The Project Apollo. New York: Basic Books

Recommended bibliography:

Allen, M. 2009. Life from the Moon: Film, Television and the Space Race, London: Tauris.

CLINTON EZELL, E.- NEUMAN EZELL, L. 2010. The Partnership: A NASA History of the Apollo Soyuz Test Project, Mineola, NY: Dover.

KRIGE, J ET AL. 2013. NASA in the World. Fifty years of International Collaboration in Space, London: Palgrave-McMillan.

JUDT, Tony. 2005. Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945. London: Penguin.

LEFFLER, M. P. 2007. For the Soul of Mankind, The United States, the Soviet Union and the Cold War, New York: Hill & Wang.

LOGSDON, J. M. 2011. John F. Kennedy and the Race to the Moon. London: Palgrave - McMillan.

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

ODON, B. C. - WARING, S. P. 2019. NASA and the Long Civil Rights Movement. Tallahassee: University Press of Florida.

PRELINGER, M. 2010. Another Science Fiction: Advertising the Space Race 1957 - 1962, Blast Books.

RISSMAN, R. 2018. Hidden Women: the African-American Mathematicians of NASA who helped America win the Space Race, Capstone Press.

SAMBALUK, N. M. 2015. The Other Space Race: Eisenhower and the Quest for Aerospace Security. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press

Scott, D. M. - Jurek, R. 201. Marketing the Moon: The Selling of the Apollo Lunar Programme, Cambridge: MIT Press.

SIDDIQI, Asif A. 2010. The Red Rocket's Glare: Spaceflight and the Soviet Imagination 1857 - 1957, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.