History of Space Exploration
Fall 2015
Instructor: Dr. Carol Paty
Time: Tu/Th 9:30-11:00am
Location: Ford ES&T L1118

Course Description
In this course we will examine the history of space exploration, paying specific attention to the societal influences on, and impact of, these exciting accomplishments. We will cover many topics in this course, with attention given to the timescales of technological advancement, the differing trajectories of the early U.S. and Soviet Union space programs, the role of gender stereotypes in shaping perception and selection of astronauts, and the impact of robotic vs. manned exploration. The goal of this course is to expose students to the complex environment that fostered some of the most inspiring achievements in exploration in the last century. This will also provide a context for launching discussion on the future of space exploration.

Required Readings
Remembering the Space Age - Steven Dick, ed. (sections assigned)
Starman: The Truth Behind the Legend of Yuri Gagarin - Jamie Doran
The Right Stuff - Tom Wolf
The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight - Martha Ackmann & Lynn Sherr
Space and the American Imagination - Howard E. McCurdy
Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier - Neil deGrasse Tyson

There will also be some additional assigned reading to compliment discussions on a week-to-week basis. They will either be posted online and/or distributed in class.

Recommended writing guide: The Elements of Style – William Strunk Jr & E. B. White

Grading
There will be 3 writing assignments, equally weighted, throughout the semester as well as several required reading assignments to support the lectures and class discussion. There will also be a short (2 hr) final.
The course grading breakdown is as follows:

3 Writing Assignments (equally weighted): 60%
Final: 15%
Class Discussion Participation*: 25%

* This includes coming prepared to discuss the weekly readings, and occasionally being asked to lead discussion on a given topic.

Office Hours
Office hours will be Friday mornings at 10am in ES&T 2252. I can also be reached by e-mail (carol.paty@eas.gatech.edu).