**The University of Texas at Austin**

**Signature Course – UGS 302**

**Space Exploration**

**Unique Number  64780**

**Meeting Time:**        Wednesdays 4:00 – 6:30PM – We will sometimes take a short break in the middle of the class period. In addition, you are expected to spend an additional six to eight hours per week on class related activities. Dates and details are given below.

**Classroom:**              WRW 413

**Instructor:**                [Wallace Fowler](http://www.ae.utexas.edu/FACULTY/fowler.html)

**Office:**            [WRW](http://www.utexas.edu/maps/main/areas/engineering.html) 415D    (Just west of the classroom)

**Office Hours:** MWF 8:00 - 9:30 or by appointment

                         (I am easy to find on MWF, much more difficult to find on TTh)

**Email:**            fowler2@csr.utexas.edu

**Phone:**                     512 471-4257        MWF

 512 471-6913        TTh (at the Center for Space Research)

**Text:**                       There is no assigned text for this course, but a reference on DVD will be provided to each student. You are also expected to access information on the internet from NASA sites, industry sites, etc. Information from **Wikipedia** must be checked with another source as information on this site often contains errors. If you use **Wikipedia**, ALWAYS confirm **Wikipedia** information with at least one other source.

**Course Overview**:   In this course, we will review the past 50 years of space exploration and will examine how past and future exploration might affect our lives in the 21st century.   We will not operate in the usual classroom mode, where each student does only independent work.   Each of you will write papers, but the entire class will edit your papers and will help to improve the writing of your papers.  You will research and write about real space missions. Some of your papers will be written by small teams of students and will be edited by other student teams from the class. Other papers will be written and edited in class, either by the entire class or by trading papers for editing. Each of you will also make one short oral presentation during the semester. The course goal is for each of you to learn to develop better writing and presentation skills while learning about space exploration.

**Class Dates:**   Our class meets on Wednesday of each week from 4 PM to 7:00 PM.   We will meet every Wednesday from **August 26, 2009** through **December 4, 2009**, except for Wednesday, **Nov 25, 2009** (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving).

 **Absence Policy:**   You are expected to attend and participate in each class. I sometimes check roll with a digital camera – taking a photo of the class during the class period. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class, you will be given an opportunity to make up the work.

**Course Procedures and Details**

1. Each student will write three four-page papers. The first two papers will relate to space exploration. For example, you might explain the science goals, political rationale, engineering achievements, and mission execution details of a recent space mission, or you might write about current rocket, a launch site, a satellite, or even a mission that has not yet been flown.

The third paper will be a report on your attendance at one of the events in the University Lecture Series. In this paper, I expect you to review the content of the lecture and then tell me what you learned. I do not want a dry recitation of facts. I want to know if anything in the lecture challenged your beliefs, if the lecture changed your opinions about something, etc. A list of the events in the University Lecture Series is attached at the end of this syllabus.

These papers will be written in Microsoft WORD and will be submitted electronically by 8:00 AM on the Tuesday before a Wednesday class. Every reference used in your work should be properly cited.

1. Beginning after the your first written papers have been submitted, I will select three to four of your papers for editing in class. I will remove all author identification and we will project these papers on the screen in class for “team” editing. No one but the author and the instructor will know who wrote the paper being edited. We will edit at least two papers from each student in class over the course of the semester.
2. I will read and provide comments for each of your papers not edited in class. You will rewrite each paper returned to you and submit it again electronically one week after it is returned to you.
3. When outside-of-class writing is not assigned, I will assign you to read selected articles / chapters / etc. You should read the assigned articles / chapters. It would be a good idea to take notes on the readings as you can bring the notes to class and use them. In class, I will choose a topic from the reading and ask you to write a one-page paper on the topic by hand. You will get the chance to make write two drafts of your paper. The second draft will be exchanged with a classmate and the classmate will edit your paper. The second draft and the edits will be turned in to me for further editing. Both the author and the editor will be identified to the instructor so that I can help both with writing and with editing.
4. Once during the semester, I will ask those of you with laptops to bring them to class and you will write as members of a team of three or four students. I will choose the topic that your team will research the topic on the Internet, and will write a 3 to 4 page paper. These papers will be read and discussed during the class period.
5. Once, during the semester, you will be asked to choose a topic that you have written on earlier and prepare a ten-minute PowerPoint presentation on that topic. You will give that presentation during the class period. The class will discuss ways to improve each presentation.
6. In early October, I will ask each of you to choose a past space event about which you would like to write. You will write about 8 pages about that mission, not including your references. Your first draft of this paper is due on the last class period in October. This paper is to be turned in both electronically and in hard-copy form. You will be given feedback on the paper and will turn it again electronically only on or before the next to last class period in the semester. You will edit the first draft of one of your classmate’s term papers.
7. You will use e-mail, use the worldwide web, use the library, explore the UT campus, learn to use campus computer resources and to submit papers, assignments, etc.
8. During one of the early class periods, we will go to the library for an orientation. There we will learn about the MANY resources available to you at UT Austin. You will use these resources in researching your final paper.

Outside of class, you will:

1. Practice using electronic media, libraries, experts, etc., as sources of information for your papers.  You will be able to construct your own worldwide web page if you so desire (we will discuss the pros and cons of this before doing it).
2. Possibly interview experts as part of your research into past and future space exploration activities. The faculty members at UT are an immense resource. Use them! Get to know them!

**Course Grading:** Course grades will be based on your individually written papers, attendance and participation in classroom discussions, contributions in editing the work of your classmates, team-written assignment, term paper, and presentations. The percentages are as follows:

Three 4 page papers 15 %

Revisions of 4 page papers 15 %

Team-written paper 10 %

Oral Presentation 10 %

Attendance and participation                                   20 %

Term paper draft quality 10 %

Final Term Paper 20 %

I will use plus/minus grading in this course. Late papers will be penalized by 10% of the grade earned. Papers more than three days late will not be accepted and you will receive a zero for that item

**Term Paper / No Final Exam:** There will be no final examination in this course. Your eight to ten page term paper will take the place of the final exam. This paper should represent your finest work and will count 30% of your overall grade.

**Classroom Standards:**   We will be learning together and we will require certain standards of each other both inside and outside of class. We will respect your opinions and your right to state them. In return, we expect you respect the rights and opinions of others in the class, to listen closely, to participate in discussions, and to carry out assignments. We, as team members, will depend upon each other. We expect you to attend class and participate in all class activities. We request that you arrive on time, stay for the entire class period, and be an active learner in the classroom. We operate under the University guidelines for academic integrity both on exams and on written work. Anyone violating those guidelines will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students and will receive a reduction in course grade at a minimum.

**Plagiarism Checking:** Modern software makes it possible to check papers submitted electronically for plagiarism. Thus, if you plagiarize all or part of a paper, we will most likely find the source and your grade for the assignment will be zero. DO NOT think that you can get away with using the work of others as your own work. You learn nothing by representing the work of others as your own work. You cheat yourself and risk severe academic penalties.

**File Naming Convention:** You will submit your work as e-mail attachments to me using Microsoft WORD format. In the past, students used submitted identical names for their work, causing a lot of extra “detective work” on my part to identify the “guilty” authors. You will name your files according to the following convention:

Filenames will begin with your initials followed by an underline and the date that the paper is due. Assume that a student named Mary Jane Doe is submitting a paper due on September 15. She should name the file

 dmj\_sept15.doc

All papers are due to be submitted electronically on Tuesday morning at 8 AM on the day before the Wednesday on which they are to be discussed. Submit papers to the following e-mail address fowler2@csr.utexas.edu e

The revised version of each paper should be labeled

 dmj\_sept15REV.doc

(If two class members have the same initials, I will assign another identifier to each).

**Special Note for Students With Disabilities:** The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TDD, or the College of Engineering Director of Students with Disabilities at 471-4321.

**Religious Holy Days:** A student who misses an examination, work assignment, or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time **after** the absence, **provided that he or she has properly notified each instructor.** **It is the policy of the University of Texas at Austin that the student must notify each instructor at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates he or she will be absent to observe a religious holy day.** For religious holidays that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, the notice should be given on the first day of the semester. The student may not be penalized for these excused absences but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to complete satisfactorily the missed assignment or examination within a reasonable time after the excused absence.

**Class Web sites and Student Privacy:** Web-based, password-protected class sites are associated with all academic courses taught at The University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, electronic class rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1.

For information on restricting directory information see: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/ferpa/ferpa.qs.faculty.htm>

Course documents will be posted on the BLACKBOARD web site.

**Detailed Course Schedule**

**August 26 - Go over syllabus**

**Write short self-introductions**

**Preliminary background survey**

**Begin writing first four page paper in class**

**Assign third four page paper**

**September 1 First 4 page paper due today at 8 AM -- send electronically to fowler2@csr.utexs.edu**

**September 2 - Discuss & edit first four page paper in class**

**Pick a University Lecture to attend and send notice to**

 **UGS Office**

**Distribute CD texts**

**Instructor Presentation: *Space: Fact vs. Fiction***

**Assignment – Read chapters 1 and 2 of CD text & answer**

 **study questions provided**

**September 9 - Discuss Chapters 1 & 2 of CD text**

 **Continue edit of first assignment in class**

 **Assign second four page paper**

**September 16 -  *Introduction to UT Library Resources – Class will meet at***

 **PCL 1.*339 at 4:00 PM.***

**September 22 - Second four page paper due today at 8 AM -- send electronically to fowler2@csr.utexs.edu**

**September 23 - Discuss second four page paper in class**

**Edit second four page paper in class**

**Presentation: *Public Perceptions of Space***

**September 30 - Continue edit of second four page paper in class**

**Assignment – Read chapters 3 and 4 of CD text & answer**

 **study questions provided**

**October 6 - Third four page paper due today at 8 AM -- Send electronically to** **fowler2@csr.utexs.edu** **(This paper is on the University Lecture Series event that you attended).**

**October 7 - Discuss Chapters 3 & 4 of CD text**

**Edit third four page paper in class**

 **Choose term paper topics & write preliminary outlines**

**October 14 - Discuss outlines of term papers**

 **Begin writing term papers in class**

**Continue edit of third four page paper in class**

**October 21 - Assignment – Read chapters 5 and 6 of CD text & answer**

 **study questions provided**

**Assign oral presentations**

**Assign those with laptops to bring them to the Oct 28 mtg.**

**October 28 - First drafts of term papers due today – bring two paper**

 **copies PLUS submit it electronically**

**Bring *your laptops today with full batteries & power cords***

**Discuss Chapter 5 & 6 of CD text**

 **Team writing activity**

 **Assign peer editing of term paper drafts**

 **Assign oral presentations**

**November 4 - Discuss team writing activity. Peer edits of term papers**

 **due at start of class**

 **Discuss oral presentations**

**November 11 - Oral Presentations (10-12 minutes each)**

**November 18 - Oral Presentations (10-12 minutes each)**

 **Second drafts of term paper due**

**November 25 - No Class – Drive safely going home**

**December 2 - Final draft of the term paper due – paper copy plus electronic submission – meet at classroom then go for**

 **Pizza at DoubleDave’s**

Fall 2009

University Lecture Series

Designed to create a campus-wide conversation, the University Lecture Series gives first-year students an opportunity to interact with leading members of our faculty—scholars, scientists, and civic leaders who are nationally and internationally renowned. All students, faculty, alumni, staff and community guests are invited, but the events will be

aimed at entering first-year students.

This year, UGS is hosting two large lectures along with five smaller, related events. Signature Course students are required to attend at least one large or small event. The large lectures can be viewed online within 72 hours after each lecture. For more information on the small events, please email Cindy Wilson, cindy.wilson@austin.utexas.edu.

**The State of the Economy**

**Tom Gilligan, Dean, Red McCombs School of Business**

**September 21 - 7pm Bass Concert Hall**

Smaller, Related Events:

**Alternative Solutions to the Financial and Economic Crisis**

**Michael Brandl, Department of Finance**

**Monday, September 28 at 7pm**

We find ourselves at a unique point in history. The economic and financial market changes we put into place today will have dramatic impacts for the next several decades. We must choose our path carefully.

What are the options before us? What choices must be made? These are the issues Professor Brandl will cover in his presentation and discussion.

**Invisible Global Market: Marketing to the Other 86%**

**Vijay Mahajan, Department of Marketing Administration**

**Thursday, October 1 at 7pm**

Most Global businesses focus on marketing to the wealthiest 14% of the World’s population: the developed world. But the market in the developed world is over-saturated, over-competitive, and aging. This presentation will focus on how to unleash growth and profitability by serving the other 86%.

**How to Spot a Tyrant: Lessons from Theater**

**Paul Woodruff, Dean, School of Undergraduate Studies**

**With Scenes Produced and Performed by the Department of Theater and Dance**

**September 22 - 7pm Bass Concert Hall**

Smaller, Related Events

 **Howl, Howl, Howl! Does Father Always Know Best?**

**Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts**

**Wednesday, September 16 at 7pm**

King Lear is a huge play and a painful one. It asks us to think hard about how we treat our parents and how we wish to be treated in turn as we grow old. In certain periods the world seems especially violently chaotic, and at the same time parents and children feel out of touch. These two fears combined in Shakespeare's day and perhaps also come together in ours. Whenever *King Lear* is popular, as it is today, it speaks to us about terror and about whether our families can ease our anxieties. This multimedia presentation will trace through image and film how a play from almost exactly four hundred years ago remains unforgettable and therapeutic for all generations even today.

**King Lear (ticketed event)** - Actors from the London Stage

**September 30, October 1 & 2, and at Winedale October 3**

**Measure for Measure (ticketed event)** - Austin Shakespeare.

**September 10 - 27**