

Physics 102
Astronomy of Planets
Project #1 – Early manned space exploration
Due: Jan 27

For this assignment, each student will research a different NASA mission from the early days of manned space exploration. Any manned missions from the Mercury, Gemini, or Apollo programs are allowed except *Apollo 1*, *Apollo 11*, and *Apollo 13*. I will also allow you to research related topics IF you talk to me about it before Friday, January 17th. Since I will be out of town from Wednesday on, this may have to be via e-mail.

First, each student must choose a mission and everyone must choose a different mission. Missions will be selected on a first come first served basis using the class discussion board on the Blackboard website (<http://blackboard.redlands.edu/>) on the GROUPS discussion board. You cannot choose a mission that was previously chosen by another member of your class so read earlier postings. You cannot change your mission after you have posted, so be careful. I will open a new topic forum Friday, January 17th at 4 pm so that you can begin choosing missions. See the course website for required reading that will assist you in picking a mission you will find interesting.

A mission must be chosen by 11:30 am on Monday, January 20th. Anyone who has not chosen a mission by then will not be able to complete the assignment and will receive a zero. Anyone who misses class will forfeit his/her claim on a mission and the opportunity to do the assignment unless arrangements have been made with me in advance. During class that day, we will meet in the library to begin researching our missions. You are required to have a minimum of 6 sources. At least 4 must have been published within 5 years of when your mission took place and at least 2 must have been published in the last 20 years. Websites are ok as long as you are sure they are genuine, anything from nasa.gov is good. At least one of your recent sources must be a print source (not web). Note that in my grading scheme, doing the minimum required is worth, at most, a C.

At the library we will mostly be showing you how to look up older periodicals (from the 1960s and 70s). These are a great reference for these missions since they give a perspective from the time they occurred. You must make notes of the articles you have chosen and turn in a copy of your list. You should check to make certain the library has the source as we do have a limited (but quite sufficient) selection. One particularly useful source that we don't have is Aviation Week. However, the local public library (Smiley Library) does have it, so, if you have the means, I strongly suggest you also go there to get some articles.

Next, read the articles and pick the most useful, keeping in mind the minimum requirements. Write up a reference list with the entries numbered. Use the APA reference style and see <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPARefereces.html> for example reference entries. An exception that I require is that when you cite websites, be certain to reference the exact website with the information, not the introductory page.

For example, you may get some information from <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/history/mercury/mercury-overview.htm>, be certain to reference that page and not the main pages at <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/history/history.htm> or <http://www.nasa.gov> as these are considered incorrect. Also, since websites change, you **must** give the date you last visited the page. Finally, check your spelling of the URL, you will lose points if they are misspelled.

After you have written your reference list, answer the questions below. For each answer, list the number(s) of the articles in which that information can be found. For some answers you will probably use some different information from several articles, be certain that it is clear which piece of information comes from which article. For example, in number 10 you may list a goal mentioned in references 1 and 3 and a different goal mentioned in references 1 and 2, be certain this is clear (goal 1 is bla (1,3) and goal 2 is bla (1,2)). If you have any questions, please see me since you will lose points if this is done incorrectly or confusingly.

Finally, turn in your reference list, answers to the following questions, and copies of all print materials used. The reference list and question answers must be turned in electronically (either by e-mail or on a floppy disk) using Microsoft Word. If you do not have Microsoft Word, see me immediately to discuss options.

1. What is the name of your mission?
2. Under which program was this mission flown?
3. What were the goals for this program?
4. What were the goals for this mission?
5. Were the goals met?
6. What astronauts flew on this mission?
7. When did these men become astronauts?
8. Why was this mission important to NASA's long-term goals?
9. How did this mission build on the accomplishments of previous missions?
10. List some of the highlights of the mission.
11. Give the important dates for the mission (liftoff, splashdown, landing, EVAs, etc.).
12. Why did you choose this mission?
13. Pick at least two images, include them here, and describe. For example, mission patch, photos of astronauts or spacecraft or important event, etc. Be sure to tell me where you got the images.
14. Describe this mission in 50 words or less and make it sound as important and interesting as possible.

A Microsoft Word version of this file is available on the class schedule webpage so that you don't have to retype the questions.