Campus Honors Program
Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar CHP 395B

31308 | 3:00 – 4:20 p.m. | TR | 212 Honors House | 3 Hours

Spaceflight

Spring 2009
Instructor: Julian Palmore

The course will explore the current state of human spaceflight, starting from the early days of Tsiolkovsky and Goddard to the later years of the American Rocket Society and the German VfR prior to World War II to the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs during the 1960s and 1970s and the Space Shuttle - International Space Station developments since 1980. We will study the mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry and physiology of human spaceflight.

Instructor: Julian Palmore is professor of mathematics at Illinois and teaches courses in differential equations and probability. He studied physics at Cornell University and after graduating and commissioning in the Navy he was assigned to the director's office of Wernher von Braun at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. His first published paper was "Lunar Impact Probe" in the American Rocket Society Journal in 1961. At NASA he worked with Ernst Stuhlinger on systems analysis of ion rockets and participated in the Apollo program and later as a test engineer on the first stage the Saturn V launch vehicle. He left NASA in 1964 to attend graduate school at Princeton University in aeronautical engineering. He studied astronomy at Yale University, specializing in celestial mechanics, and returned to Princeton as a visiting fellow. He studied mathematics at the University of California Berkeley. In his career he has solved problems of rocket flight, celestial mechanics and spaceflight.