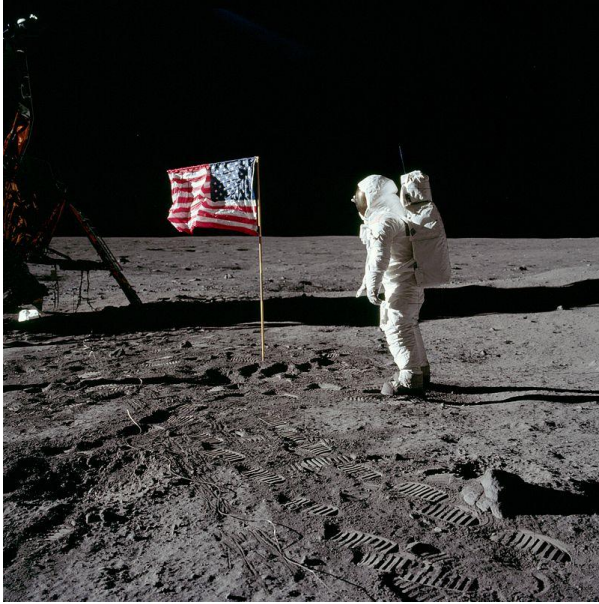


The Moon Race: America, Russia, and Apollo

History 395. MWF, 10:30-11:20, University Hall 319, Professor Michael G. Smith



To prepare for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing (1969-2019), this course offers students varied readings and original research on the American and Russian contest to conquer the moon. We will survey the wide dimensions of this rivalry, including its origins in the missile and space races during the 1950s, in the media and propaganda texts and images, in the basic technologies of trans-lunar rocketry and spaceflight, and in the roles of politicians and the public in driving the competition. We will also compare the images of cosmonauts and astronauts, we'll uncover the secret Russian program to beat the U.S. to the moon, and we'll confront the various "hoaxes." Our sources include history books and popular stories, original NASA materials, film and art, and the unique collections of the Purdue Archives, centered on the papers of Neil Armstrong and Eugene Cernan.