

HPS/H 164

MIDTERM PAPER

Write a brief response paper on Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of *Space and the American Imagination* by Howard E. McCurdy.

Your first goal is to synthesize the arguments of Chapter 2 and 3 into two sentences. (For this, you'll also need to read Chapter 1 to get some background). Type those two sentences at the top of your paper in a separate paragraph. Example:

In Chapters 1 and 2 of *Space and the American Imagination*, Howard McCurdy argues that blah blah blah. Furthermore, blah blah blah blah.

After these two sentences, explain and elaborate on the arguments you just listed, using evidence from the chapters themselves. This part should be about three pages long. For each part of your argument, refer to at least one example of popular culture that was important to the story. After those three pages, on page 4, list some of the types of evidence (i.e., sources) used by the author to advance his arguments. Are they letters? Are they diaries? What kind of sources are they? Think critically about the sources. Pick out two examples of sources in the text and explain why they are valuable (or not) as sources. This part should be about one page long. Finally, on page 5, make a case based on your opinion using one other source (not the book) on whether you think any of McCurdy's arguments (think of the two sentences at the beginning) are convincing. Do you agree? Why? Or Why not? Explain.

When you refer to something in the text or use a quote, please note the page number. For example, you could say: "McCurdy argues that bananas were the reason we went to space (45). Or, in a press conference Wernher von Braun explained that "there was the danger of zombies in space so we should stay back on Earth" (122).

There is no requirement to use other sources for your paper (except for the one source on pg. 5), but feel free to do so.

The paper should be no longer than five pages long, or about 1,250 words. All papers should be on 8" X 11" paper, double-spaced, in 12 pt font in Times New Roman, with 1" X 1" margins.

The paper is due in class on November 3 (Tuesday). I will not accept e-mailed copies.