

Adult
COFFEE CLUB
at the Connecticut Science Center



The History of Flight (A Four Part Series)

PRESENTED BY: Professor Hamish Lutris – Associate Professor, History/Political Science at Capital Community College

PART I: *Minos Rules Everything, But He Does Not Rule The Heavens*

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Flight has always been a human dream. This talk centers on the concept of flight, from its most ancient ideas to the Second World War when rockets- and thus space travel- became a reality. Ancient texts and revisionist theories about ancient flight will be explored, as well as the process by which humans began to achieve heavier-than-air flight in imitation of both birds and dragonflies, finally achieving viable makes of both aircraft and helicopters in the 1940s. The talk will end with the breaking of the sound barrier in 1947 by Chuck Yeager, one of the most incredible flying feats ever recorded. This session will have a snow date of February 22.

PART II: *The Day The Earth Stood Still*

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Space travel, and the potential of warfare in space, have both fascinated and terrified western societies since the splitting of the atom in 1945. This talk examines one of western science's most notable achievements and Soviet and US technological and industrial prowess, the space race. The Cold War and burgeoning science-fiction film and literary genres will demonstrate the fear under which many lived at the time and the effect of the launching of the Soviet satellite Sputnik in 1957 on the United States. The talk will mainly center on the Mercury program and the first US astronauts, until the first human-crewed flight, by Apollo 8, in 1968. This session will have a snow date of March 8.

PART III: *Race to Space*

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Once flight was achieved, the world's eyes turned almost at once to space. This talk centers on flight, space travel, and the race to put a human into space. It will examine ancient and modern sources to document humanity's age-old desire to reach the sky and beyond. The process by which humans achieved heavier-than-air, helicopter, jet, and space flight will be flight, then jet, then rocket travel will be discussed. The talk will conclude with the Mercury program, which put the first Americans in space.

PART IV: *"We Came in Peace For All Mankind"*

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong descended to the lunar surface. It was an event hailed throughout the world as a significant milestone in the history of humankind. Many Americans still remember being riveted by Walter Cronkite's broadcast of the moon landing and their excitement at what we all had achieved. This talk looks at the Apollo program, the beginnings of space flight, and the sense of political urgency that drove the US to shoot for the moon. As well as the intrepid technological spirit and prowess that transported Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to another heavenly body and allowed them to explore it, and even play a bit of golf.

TICKETS:

\$28 - Early Bird Bundle* (all 4 sessions)

\$32 - 4 Session Bundle**

\$10 - Individual Session Price

\$6/pp - Individual Session Group Rate (6 or more people)

*Must purchase before January 20. **Must purchase before February 15.

Each ticket includes the lecture and light refreshments. An additional ticket to explore the Science Center after the lecture can be purchased at the each event for \$10/pp. Attendees are responsible for a flat-rate parking fee of \$5 to park in the Science Center garage.

Tickets are available at CTScienceCenter.org or by calling **860-520-2104** or emailing groupsales@ctsciencecenter.org.

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