>>My expectations were met. They were actually surpassed. In all honesty, I expected this to be an easy class and it really wasn’t. The effort needed was far greater than I expected but at the same time, it was far more rewarding than I expected. When I saw my teams’ Sat launch into space, the feeling was amazing. Professor Chris is always asking if we think our tuition money is worth it and it really is. The experience is incredible and it really does look good on your resume. I hope this class is as joyful for future students as it was for me.

>>My expectations for this class were met if not passed. I really enjoyed this class and feel that I have learned a lot about space and working on tasks as a team.

>>I can very easily say that my expectations for this class were met and then exceeded. When I first signed up for Gateway to Space I expected to be building a balloon-sat and flying it up roughly 100,000 feet. Which is exactly what we but proved much harder than I originally had anticipated. The one thing I was not expecting was all of the guest lectures and the quality of these guest lecturers. These alone were almost as exciting as the actual flight of our satellite because these weren’t just some interns coming to talk to us from a small aerospace company, they were all important people at major companies. It’s not every day you get to talk with an astronaut or a major leader in NASA’s biggest project to date. Overall the class is a lot of work, but worth it.

>>My expectations were shattered. This was by far the most valuable course I’ve taken at CU in my 2 years here. I learned a lot about what I want to do with my future and about what I enjoy doing now (such as Arduino coding and hardware interface). I am extremely happy I took this course.

>>Yes, my expectations were met and exceeded in both the material covered in class and the knowledge gained from working on project [redacted] outside of class.

>>My expectations for this class were definitely met. I had hoped to learn more about what goes into designing and building anything that went up into space. I felt that the lectures we had were very relevant to what I wanted to get out of this class. I especially enjoyed all the guest speakers. It was a great opportunity to get to learn about what people who are actually working in the field I am interested in are doing and some of the different directions I could go in aerospace. Overall, even though this class was a lot of work and was the source of some stress, I absolutely loved everything about it.

>>My expectations were not met. Mostly because of the team I was in. Don’t take this class if you are not an aerospace engineer. Completely unnecessary if you’re not in that field. Not only it is tedious, most of the time you’ll be lost about what is being talked on class.

>>After finishing this class, I would say that my expectations were met. If anything were more than met. I enjoyed every moment of this class, even getting criticized, as it really gave me a jump start on what the real world or upper level classes could and most likely will be like. Your guidance was perfect, as you didn’t get too involved, but still made yourself available for meetings and questions. I also learned a lot
from the guest lectures. Some more than others, however they all provided some sort of learning experience. If there was one thing I would have you change, it actually would be smaller groups. I found that in a group of 8 like mine, 3-4 people tend to do most of the work while the others sit back and ride it out. I feel like we could have done this no problem with 5 to 6 people instead of 8.

>> My expectations were far beyond met by this class. Originally I anticipated a few presentations and was unsure of how building the balloon sat would be like. As Chris said in the beginning of the year, the class was a rollercoaster ride. I had not expected to make so many presentations and create such a detailed design document. The class required a lot more time than I expected. Unfortunately I was expecting every student in the class to be passionate and motivated to succeed in space exploration, but that was not the case. More than half of my team just wanted to get the project down, but didn’t want to contribute to the group. This made myself feel like the class was a lot more work than fun. But comparing my team to most other teams it seems like we were an outlier condition. I saw no flaw in the determination of teams, but did feel like there was a flaw in determining people who could be in the class. All in all the experience was great and as I expected, I found it all very worth while.

>> Most of my expectations were met. I had a great time on launch and our data was so cool! Chris was very helpful and knowledgeable. I had fun when I was in the Gateway Class. It was a ton of work, but I had heard to expect that. Be prepared you will need to make sacrifices. I was expecting my team to all be pretty responsible and split the work well, but that didn’t work out. As a whole I really enjoyed this class so much. I have learned many new skills and have been encouraged to continue with Aerospace.

>> I wasn’t quite sure what to expect in the beginning. Much like any class, you get out of it what you put into it. So that much I knew. But I can confidently say that if I were to have had any specific expectations, they would have been surpassed. I learned a lot from taking this class, and I definitely do not regret the experience. Even though aerospace might not be the engineering field that I see myself in, I definitely can take away a lot from the class. I gained more experience working with arduinos, got to practice wiring and soldering, and even if some people can’t apply that to their resume, it is always good to practice being a part of a team and working with people. This class was one of the few classes that I have taken where I actually enjoyed going to class, things were always interesting, whether it be from the material or how it was presented.

>> My expectations were definitely met. I had an insane amount of fun in this class and I did learn a lot while I gained teamwork skills and also took the project into my own hands. It probably the most fun that I will ever want to go through once. There was more work than I thought there would be but seeing our payload go up and actually record data was very satisfying.

>> Yes my expectations were met. Everything that we were warned about was true. The class was a lot of fun but had an equal amount if not more work. The class taught me a lot about robotics and space but most of all teamwork. It helped me work together with my team and better my skills in a team setting. All in all I am very glad I took this class.

>> Most of the expectations for this class were met. I wanted to learn a little of everything that goes into aerospace majors. I did got some experience at working in different fields of engineering, However, I would have liked to have known more about how to work the with the systems. I enjoyed the project, but there were some challenges to face once it came to work with my team. My team did not allowed me to work a lot on the project at the beginning, but by the end of the year we became friends again and Chris Koehler is one of the best professors I had this semester. I loved it.
Gateway to Space – Messages to Spring 2015 Students from Fall 2014 Students

>> I honestly came into this with no major expectations, but I was up for any challenge. I predicted this class to help me to discover my interests and and prepare for my future plans. However, what I gained from this class was way above my anticipation. I didn’t realize how much work and dedication expected from me in this class, but it definitely gave me a skill of a lifetime. I didn’t realize how much sleep this class would take away from me and the stress it would put on me instead. Nevertheless, I do not regret taking this class at all. It gave me valuable experience that would benefit me greatly in the future. I learned what effective ways and approach towards working in a group project as well as the importance of time management and participation. However, the most important thing I learned was how engineering is 10% success and the rest is learning from the mistakes and failures. Remain consistent and patient.

>> My expectations for this class were met. I expected to learn a lot about aerospace and satellites, and I received an extensive education on the subject. I originally came into the class with minimal understanding of space and satellites, and only a cursory understanding on the number of jobs and positions available to aerospace engineers. With each class and subsequent class guest speaker, I gained a new understanding of the position and all jobs that I could and would perform as part of a team in aerospace.

>> My expectations for the class were thoroughly met. I greatly enjoyed building the satellite and researching our mission. My most memorable experience was launch and recovery. I submitted my suggestions online but I am not sure if that submitted properly.

>> To be honest this class was really not what I expected. The team weren’t cooperative and the amount of isolation that they have done to me and I is great. They didn’t trust us with any of the work for reasons that I do not know. It might be the fact that we had different skin colors or that we thought and spoke differently. Therefore, the day that we were given our groups we were destined to fail, no matter how much we tried to have out inputs in this experiment. Towards the end of the semester one of the members noticed this and contacted me. Then, I explained everything to him. After that the team gave us more responsibilities by bribing us that they would give us better reflection scores if we helped on the last 2 weeks of class.

>> My expectations were somewhat met. Although everything I heard from the previous semester about this class was about the intense workload, I didn’t expect to spend as much time on this project as we did. It would have been a significantly more comfortable amount of work had our team allocated the workload more effectively. Also, I didn’t expect our team to become as close as we did; spending a large amount of time together was partially to blame for this, but we all mesh well together also. Lastly, I didn’t expect to get as excited about this project as I ultimately did. This excitement was mostly attributed to being able to fly my model U.S.S. Enterprise, but nonetheless the project was one of the most interesting things I’ve done.

>> My expectations for this class were exceeded in a spectacular fashion. As expected the class was indeed a lot of work. But luckily I got a very good group that was very well organized and highly motivated. Because of this I never felt stressed in this class, despite the heavy workload. The hands-on experience coupled with guest speakers proved to be a potent combination. I cannot overemphasize how much I enjoyed the guest speakers that came to class. I found that each guest lecture had at least one truly fascinating idea. I find it difficult to pick my favorite lecture, but I find that I must agree with previous classes that Dr. James Stuart’s “The Future of Space Exploration” was probably the best. I
learned a lot from this class from soldering to coding an Arduino to career advice. The pictures we took in near space was just icing on the cake.

>> My expectations for the class were met overall. I enjoyed the process of designing and building the Balloon Sat very much. This class did take up a majority of my effort this semester. I do not believe this class should only be worth 3 credits. I think that taking this class has made me a better and more committed student. The work load and tight deadlines were stressful but it was a good representation of the real world I believe. I am very happy I took this class.

>> For the most part they were. It was a great insight into how engineering worked. I didn’t have the most motivated team, but that encouraged a few of us to put in more time than we initially would have, and that ended up being a valuable experience.

>> My expectations for this class were mostly met. The only thing that I did not like was that I believe the team part of the final grade is weighted too heavily. I know that in the real world you must work and get graded as a team, but I don’t think that it is fair that I will be getting the same grade in the class as one of my teammates who did absolutely nothing for our group. That being said I really enjoyed the class and I learned a lot from it.

>> My class expectation were met. At the beginning of the year, I was worried that this project would be near impossible. As the semester progressed, it got even worse. I believed that we would fail and our project wouldn’t even fly. After two all-nighters of constant work, my thought changed. I became the father of a wonderful product. The launch was outstanding.

>> I think it’s hard for expectations to be meet, when you have very few expectations. Truthfully, when I came into this class, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I knew I was going to be working on a project specifically designed for Aerospace student’s, but I wasn’t sure what that fully entailed. What I got out of the class however, was more then I got out of any other class this semester. In addition to technical skills (design, coding, structural, electrical, technical paper, and presentation) I also gained a lot of practical advice from people in the industry. Not only that, but the amount of interpersonal and teamwork skills I developed was a very surprising, very beneficial, experience.

Were my expectations met? Yes they were, in a way that far exceeded what I was prepared for. I expected to learn skills that would help further my career after school. What I got was an immersive experience to all aspects of the Aerospace industry, and for that I am extremely grateful.

>> When I initially entered the class I was quite nervous as I had no previous experience with anything engineering related. However, as the semester progressed and I began to build the BalloonSat with my fellow team members, I know I had made the right choice taking the class. To be completely honest, if it were not for this class I am not sure if I would have remained an aerospace major. I cannot describe the huge impact meeting Joe Tanner, listening to multiple guest speakers, and building the BalloonSat each had on me. I cannot thank professor Chris and the university enough for the amazing opportunity I was presented with this class.

>> This class has been an emotional roller-coaster as you explained that it would be at the start of the year. There were many struggles as a team and as myself to get through this class. That being said, this was my favorite course that I have ever taken. I signed up to be an engineer to be challenged and tested, and this was a good taste of that. This class taught me a lot about myself as well. I wasn’t the team
leader but fell into the position when the team realized that they were severely behind and no one was doing anything about it. I learned how to organize people and what type of leader that I can be. I also learned that I don’t crack under pressure too easily. There were a few days this semester where I was just very upset with the class and couldn’t do anymore work for that day (and I couldn’t afford to lose a day) but I found my zone and just plowed through work. I liked the people on my team but learned pretty early on that I couldn’t wait for them to do their part, and we would get behind. This isn’t the way that I like to work as a team, but if they didn’t do their part by the set due date, I would just override them and do it for them. I would always ask for people to contribute, but for the majority (maybe 80%) of the project, I felt that it boiled down to 2-3 people to do the work. That was hard at first, but once we accepted that, we were able to work well together as a duo or trio. The meeting times were clearly set and we always asked if a different time would work for more people, but we got a lot of radio silence. I can attribute this to the other members not being as invested in the success of the project as the three of us. This class not only met my expectations but exceeded them. I have learned many strong skills that I know will help me in my journey to becoming an engineer. I am very grateful for your teaching methods, preparation, and strict policies. If you showed more flexibility in the structure of the class, I don’t feel that I would be as good with deadlines and splitting up work as I am now. This was a very busy semester and felt extremely rushed the majority of the time, which was expected.

>> Some of my expectations for this class were exceeded, but others were not met. I expected to learn more things about our project in class but we didn’t learn much about it with an exception with the Arduino and coding for the environmental sensors. I was also expected that we would acquire the knowledge of our mission components in class but I had to learn about most of them, i.e. the magnetometer and the Geiger counter outside of class. I wasn’t expecting all of the work for the project to be done outside of class and I thought we would work on the project if only in part but we didn’t work on it after the Arduino coding. I also expected my group to work in a timelier manner. Overall I expected more in class work time or more information about the balloon sat and more guidance on possible sensors.

>> My expectations for this class were not only met but they were also surpassed. Although this class was hard and it was a lot more work than I initially imagined, this class was fun and worth it. I made some really good friends and met a lot of people that I’m going to be working with in the years to come. I’ve learned more about the aerospace industry than I originally knew or ever thought I would know until I was actually working in it. I also gained other life skills that I will cherish and use for the rest of my life. I learned how to solve complex problems and work in a team that you didn’t know anyone.

>> Yes, my expectations for this class have been met and surpassed. This class really expanded my knowledge on soldering, coding, wiring, etc. but it also taught me valuable lessons in teamwork. It taught me how to sacrifice time and effort for a product that is worthwhile. I feel that the lessons I learned from this class was truly worth all the work I put in.

>> Not only were my expectations met, but they also exceeded for this class. I had no prior knowledge of what we would do in this class, and it turned out to be the best class I have ever taken.

>> My expectations were met that it would be a super hard class but a great learning experience and that is exactly what it was. It was so stressful and so much work but I my team for the most part exceeded my expectations. We all worked together well and got our balloon sat and presentations done. It was pretty rewarding to know our payload succeeded.
>> My expectations for this class were met and exceeded. After reading through some testimonies from previous years, I understood that the class will require a lot of work. There was even more work than what I had in mind. I also expected teamwork from our group, but not a lot of it happened. For some reason, we didn’t really kick it off, and I can probably say that for most of my teammates. I would have liked a friendlier atmosphere, but the little interaction we had, was in the most part professional and even then there was a lack of professionalism. Also expected more guidance of the format mentor-mentee, being left to self-management instead.

>> Yes, my expectations for this class were completely met because I learned a lot more than I thought I would. I understood all the concepts and steps that are require to fulfilling a semester long project by creating documents to support a mission as well as presenting in front of large crowds. This project was very time consuming out of class, since as a team we had to push one another to learn from each other. Throughout this semester, all the hard work paid off because it was a very rewarding class since it changed my perspective on how much background data and testing is requires to successfully build a satellite.

>> My expectations have fully been met. I learned a lot more about engineering and realized how much work and how much fun is involved. Launching and recovering the BalloonSat was all types of awesome. I really enjoyed the class, even through the difficulties.

>> Yes my expectations for this class were met. You said it would challenge us, and it definitely did.

>> Expectations were met as expected before I got into the class. I think the amount of time we put into this class is much more than other freshman projects class but I believe it was much more rewarding. I made friends who I will keep in touch for the rest of my life and we built friendships like no other. I’m not gonna lie; this class was hard. Because I had 7 other team mates I could depend on, I wanted to procrastinate and leave the work just to them. Thanks to our team leader, our group was not selfish enough to do such heartless things and because of him, we were able to fight through our hard ships together throughout our semester.

>> I would say that yes, my expectations were definitely met for this class! Like the students from previous years said, it was a lot of work but I loved the experience. I am so proud of what my team and I accomplished during this semester and feel like I not only learned a lot, but also had a ton of fun. If there was anything that did not quite meet my expectations, it was some of the lectures. I liked getting to hear from the guest speakers, but it felt very choppy about what we were learning.

>> Yes. This class did meet my expectations. As an Aerospace Engineering Science major, this course really got me ready for the foundation and introduction to what my major is going to be. It really gave me a head start from other Aerospace Engineer that are not taking this course. I really want every single Aerospace Engineers to take this course. Also, beside Gateway to Space itself, I really learned more about how “Team” works. How to manage time and mange team itself. I really amazing people like [REDACTED] to be part of my life and, also, continue our teamwork through Space Grant. If I were to give some suggestion about the class, like I said on the top, I really want this class to be a “required” class for every single Aerospace Engineering majors. I really had one of the best moments in my life through this class. Thank you Professor Chris and CA Crawford. Thank you.
Gateway to Space – Messages to Spring 2015 Students from Fall 2014 Students

>> I did not know what to expect, regarding my education, coming into this class. I took it because it was an ASEN class which I thought would guide me in the right direction to becoming an aerospace engineer. This did exactly that, so my expectations in that way were met. I was blown away by the things that we have achieved as a team, and what I can do as a freshmen.

>> I am more than satisfied with this class. All of my expectations were met plus some. Launch day was just as satisfying as I imagined, and the work experience is basically unparalleled. I didn’t even expect to have all of the wonderful guest lectures that we had which made the experience that much better.

>> When entering this class, I hoped to improve on my group work and communication skills as well as learn more about the aerospace engineering. Overall, this course did fulfill all of my expectations. It has been such a pleasure working with my team mates. I have developed such great bonds with everyone in my group and it was easier to communicate with everyone and settle problems we had as a team. This helped me look forward to team projects in the future because I was able to experience a “healthy” team. I also learned a lot about aerospace engineering and definitely a lot more than I have ever learned before. I had not quite considered aerospace engineering as my major but I feel it is a great field to begin working in to utilize my mechanical engineering skills.

>> My expectations for this class were met. I came into Gateway to Space thinking it would be a difficult, but interesting learning experience. I was not disappointed. The amount of time spent on the class was more than I expected, as I guessed we would have more class time to work on the Balloon Sat. However, this wasn’t a huge deal, as I had a great group to work with. I also learned a ton, such as soldering and a little coding, which will no doubt help me in future classes. I experienced several failures throughout the semester in Gateway to Space, but working through these was a valuable experience. Although the class was extremely difficult and time-consuming, it was also very fun, and a great learning and team-building experience.

>> My expectations for this class were met. There was a lot of working and was frustrating at times, but the end result was a good one. We got cool pictures and really good experience.

>> My expectations for this class were definitely met. After reading last year’s messages to our class, I expected to spend a sizeable amount of time in this class and I was not disappointed. The class prepares you for the stressful and busy lifestyle of an engineer. The long nights, the last minute modifications, and the many presentations and deadlines really allowed me to understand what an engineer is. I gained a lot of experience from this class and project that will help me in my future engineer career endeavors. I am really grateful to have been given the opportunity to take this class and work with my team.