

Reading Assignment:

April 5: “That's Entertainment - TV's UFO Coverup”, from Skeptical Inquirer:

https://www.csicop.org/si/show/thats_entertainment_tvs_ufo_coverup

April 12: “Moon Hoax Plus 10,” a blog post by Phil Plait (handout):

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/2011/02/15/moon-hoax-10/>

Presentation Assignment:

Due April 12

This assignment is based on the video “Conspiracy Theory: Did We Land on the Moon,” a 2001 documentary about the claims that the Apollo manned Moon missions were, in fact, faked. The video will be viewed by the class on Thursday, April 5 in class, but you can view it at your pleasure on Netflix.

Your group will then pick four of the topics below. You should discuss these topics in a presentation to the class on April 12. Basically, you are supposed to be discussing whether the TV program gave a fair and balanced discussion of the issues.

A) 20% believe in the crash	B) The Capricorn-1 tie-in	C) No stars in pictures	D) No blast crater
E) Dust around the lander	F) Deep, dark shadows	G) Non-parallel shadows	H) Identical backgrounds
I) More identical backgrounds	J) Lander unable to balance itself	K) No flames from lunar launch	L) Astronauts shot footage in slow motion
M) The waving flag	N) Why was every picture perfect?	O) Missing crosshairs in photos	P) The deadly radiation in space
Q) Lunar reflectors	R) Lunar rocks	S) Independent verification at the time	T) Images of Lunar landers by subsequent spacecraft

For commentary, you can use whatever sources you like, but here are some suggested ones:

For Items A through P, Phil Plait has a detailed list of rebuttals which you can find at

<http://www.badastronomy.com/bad/tv/foxapollo.html>

For Q: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon_landing_conspiracy_theories#Retroreflectors

For R: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon_rock

For S and T: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third-party_evidence_for_Apollo_Moon_landings