Major Essay 3

Prompt B: In class we have discussed several decades of efforts by the US government and the UN to regulate an as yet imaginary space future. Referencing at least two relevant class texts + our visit to the maps library, asses what you think the greatest challenges will be in building successful, long term space commerce. How might we overcome these challenges?

Look at moon treaty and how that relates to the Antarctic territorial claims. How has the Antarctic point been a point of contention over the years? Why has the United States not made any formal land claims, and not formally recognize other nation’s land claims?

More broadly, since space is unconquered by our world’s nations, what does that mean for land occupation? Will nations have rule over certain areas space?

Economics – Asteroid mining, (talk about present day asteroid mining and the technologies associated with making that work). Who has claim to the asteroids? Will there be a standard form of currency between all nations, or will it be much like today’s currency? How will politics influence currency and the market in space? How will the market start?

1. Discuss land claims and how they have been disputed in history
2. Describe ways in which land could be claimed in space, if at all
3. Tie into how that relates to resource gathering
4. Discuss current global political policy and how that influences economics
   1. Foreign relations
   2. Tariffs
   3. Trade
   4. What does that mean for currency?
5. Discuss the ethics of ravaging a small planet or moon for its resources, destroying potential life in the process.

Main point: We can create a functional interstellar economy if we define rules for material extraction, and defining how