The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) will extend the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and the Spitzer Space Telescope by deploying a large cooled infrared telescope in an orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange point L2. With a 6 m aperture and four instruments covering the wavelength range from 0.6 to 28 µm, it will provide sensitivities orders of magnitude better than any other facilities. It is intended to observe the light from the first galaxies and the first supernovae, the assembly of galaxies, and the formation and evolution of stars and planetary systems. In this talk I will review the scientific objectives, the hardware concepts and technology, and the predicted system performance. I will close with a summary of possible future space observatories, ranging from the far IR to planet-finding coronagraphs and interferometers, dark energy hunters, and gravitational wave detectors.

TIME: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 20th, 2006
PLACE: 101 Corcoran Hall, GWU
725 21st Street, N.W. (Between G and H Streets)
METRO STATION: GWU/FOGGY BOTTOM (BLUE & ORANGE LINES)