

Course Description:

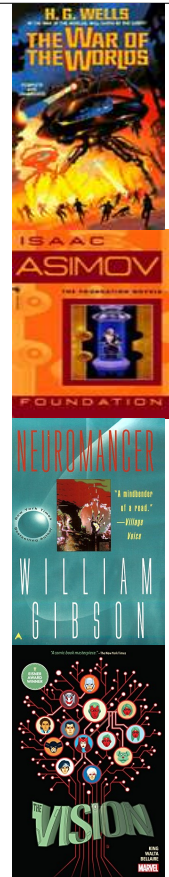
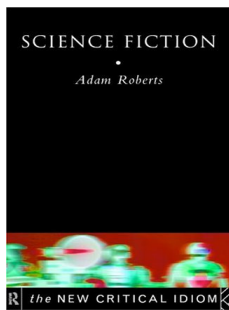
This course will explore the boundaries of Science Fiction as a complex genre with significant social and cultural ramifications. We will also pay particular attention to the unique features of this often marginalized genre. What constitutes a work of Science Fiction, and how and where does Science Fiction resist such impositions? Particular attention will be paid to issues of science-anxiety, escapism, the body, the cyberpunk aesthetic, posthumanism, and SF postmodernism. The primary concern of the course is to facilitate close reading and analysis in class discussion and written assignments. Students are required to read critically and carefully and come to class prepared to discuss the works (attendance is by no means optional).

Required Texts:

Asimov, Isaac - Foundation
 King et al., Vision - Director's Cut
 Gibson, William - Neuromancer
 Wells, H.G. - War of the Worlds
 Courseware Package (Available in Bookstore):

Optional Text:

Roberts, Adam - Science Fiction



Courseware Package Contents:

- Aldiss - "Supertoys Last all Summer Long"
- Asimov - "The Last Question"
- Bradbury - "The Veldt"
- Butler - "Bloodchild"
- Clarke - "The Star"
- Delany - "Driftglass"
- Di Filippo - "Victoria"
- Dick - "We Can Remember it for you Wholesale"
- Forde - "The Gift"
- Landis - "A History of the Human and Post-Human Species"
- Mieville - "Jack"
- Russ - "When it Changed"
- Silverberg - "Passengers"
- Shelley - Excerpt from *Frankenstein*
- Sterling - "Homo Sapiens Declared Extinct"
- Tiptree - "The Women Men Don't See"
- Wilson - "The Great Goodbye"

Assignments:

Final Essay

40%

This will be the culmination of your work in class, a 2,000 word paper. I will provide topic lists (as opposed to a thesis statement). For each essay I want you to compare one main text and one text from the course pack (and/or film list).

Midterm Essay

25%

This paper will require the student to speak to the early formation of the SF genre. Students will receive a detailed description of this assignment along with possible essay topics well in advance of the due date. Minimum length of this essay is 1500 words.

Group Discussions

10%

3 Times throughout the term (indicated on schedule) I will divide you into groups, and provide you with a discussion question. Your task is to then facilitate an involved and productive discussion, resulting in a single written response for each group. Every group member will receive the same mark for this report.

Final Exam:

25%

Straightforward questions that will address your understanding of both the readings, and of various concepts and perspectives discussed in class.

Note: All written work submitted late will be subject to a penalty of 10 marks (out of 100) per day, including weekends.

Schedule (subject to alteration)

Winter 2019

Date	Readings	Assignment	Films
Jan. 8	Syllabus		
Jan. 15	Wells; Shelley (CP)		
Jan. 22	Wells; Forde (CP)		Metropolis
Jan. 29	Asimov; Roberts (Ch 2)	Group Discussion 1	
Feb. 5	Asimov; Aldiss; Clarke		2001: A Space Odyssey
Feb. 12	Butler (CP); Russ (CP); Tiptree (CP); Roberts (Ch 3)	Midterm Essay	
Feb. 26	Silverberg (CP); Delaney (CP); Roberts (Ch 4)	Group Discussion 2	Ex Machina
Mar 5	Gibson; Dick (CP); Roberts (Ch 5)		
Mar. 12	Gibson; Asimov (CP); Bradbury (CP)		
Mar. 19	Di Filippo (CP); Mieville (CP)		
Mar. 26	Sterling (CP); Landis (CP); Wilson (CP)	Group Discussion 3	
Apr. 2	King; Roberts (Ch 6)		
Apr. 9	NO CLASS - SUBMIT ESSAY TO ONLINE DROP-BOX		

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals.

Note for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

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