

LIT 306: Science Fiction

Tuesday + Thursday
12:30-4:00pm
SB 223

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Introduction

This course examines science fiction (sf) as a genre that has steadily crept into our mainstream film and television culture such that it is now a major genre with hundreds of books, films, and television series every year. We'll do our best to look at canonical entries, interesting derivations, and contemporary pieces receiving critical attention. By the end of this course, you should have a strong sense of the fundamental concepts explored in science fiction and a broad understanding of the intertextual nature of the genre.

Required Textbooks

<i>Author</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>ISBN</i>
Wells, H.G.	<i>The Time Machine</i>	9780393927948
Clarke, A.	2001: A Space Odyssey	9780451457998
Bacigalupi, P.	<i>The Windup Girl</i>	9781597801584
Halderman, J.	<i>The Forever War</i>	9780312536633
Vonnegut, K.	<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>	9780385333849

Assignments and Evaluation

Response papers (35%)

There will be five response papers that ask you to build connections between literature / film / television that we watch in class. I will provide topics for these papers and ask you to address critical concepts that we have covered in our class discussions. Your job will be to take a stand on an issue and provide evidence from the pieces you are analyzing to support your position. Each paper will be

approximately 750 words in length. I'll take your top four grades for this component, so you can either submit five and drop the lowest grade, or submit four. Papers are due Fridays at 11:59 p.m.; no late submissions permitted.

The Megatext (20%)

Based on the term coined by science fiction theorist Damien Broderick. We will collectively create a wiki with entries on science fiction films, television shows, comics, books, and short stories. Every student will create two entries in the course of the semester. More information is available on the wiki site. The first entry must be completed no later than 7/20, the second no later than 8/8.

Final Exam (20%)

There will be a comprehensive take home exam that covers all the material from the course. I'll distribute the exam to you on the final day of class, and you'll complete it independently no later than 11:59p.m. on Sunday, August 13th. The exam will be timed (two hours), and you'll be able to use your books and notes. More details to come later in the term.

Participation (25%)

Participation is critical to your understanding in a literature course, especially when we are in a shortened term. Come to class everyday prepared to make at least one comment. I don't hand out "A" grades for people who sit silently the entire semester of work on other projects in class. During films, pay attention and take notes so that you can talk and write about them afterwards.

Attendance is mandatory. I'll allow one missed class meeting without penalty, but then I will reduce your final grade in the course by 10% for each subsequent missed class. After three missed class meetings, you'll receive an "E" for your final grade.

Chronic lateness will be counted as an absence. Having too much work in other classes or extracurricular activities not related to professional development or official university activities are not excuses for missing class. Seek permission for extended absences whenever possible. You cannot miss extended periods of class without notifying me. I will issue a grade of "E" to students who stop attending class.

Plagiarism

You are expected to adhere to all IIT rules regarding academic honesty and conduct. Please familiarize yourself with the Student Handbook policies.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas without appropriate attribution of those ideas to the original author. Reordering words or sentences but conveying the same ideas as another author and representing those ideas as your own still constitutes plagiarism.

If I detect any plagiarized content in your paper, you will automatically fail the assignment and, depending on the severity of the infraction, the course. Additional penalties may be imposed by the Humanities department and the University, such as academic sanctions and expulsion from the University. If you are concerned that your work might constitute a breach of academic integrity, contact me via email before turning in your assignment and I will advise you. I will report plagiarism to the appropriate university authorities without exception and issue failing grades as necessary to prevent academic dishonesty.

Special Needs

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must obtain a letter of accommodation from the Center for Disability Resources and contact me in the first week of the course. The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) is located in Life Sciences Room 218, telephone 312-567-5744 or disabilities@iit.edu.