ENG-2450: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: SCIENCE FICTION

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: ENG-2450 : Introduction to Literature: Science Fiction

Board of Trustees:

March 2022

Academic Term:

Fall 2022

Subject Code

ENG - English

Course Number:

2450

Title:

Introduction to Literature: Science Fiction

Catalog Description:

Introduction to Literature: Science Fiction surveys the historical roots, literary forms, major works, common themes, and subgenres of science fiction literature.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1020 College Composition II, or ENG-102H Honors College Composition II, or ENG-2151 Technical Writing, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the cultural, historical, intellectual, and especially literary foundations of science fiction.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Examine the periodic cultural, historical, intellectual, and literary foundations of science fiction.
2. Analyze the various periods and eras of science fiction.
3. Explain the ways in which the interaction of society and technology influence science fiction.

Course Outcome(s):

Read critically, interpret, and analyze selected works of science fiction.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):
1. Examine the elements of literary fiction, thematic developments in short stories and novels, and their significance.
2. Analyze ethical and moral issues and value conflicts explored in science fiction.
3. Utilize critical thinking and reading skills to make inferences and examine issues with regard to specific elements of literary science fiction.
4. Write critically about selected texts.

Course Outcome(s):

Read critically and analyze the aesthetic characteristics of a literary work of science fiction.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):
1. Analyze the ways in which the literary texts work.
2. Interpret each work in light of its theme(s).
3. Recognize aesthetic achievements of authors.
4. Write critically about selected texts.

Course Outcome(s):

Write college-level papers critically analyzing, evaluating, and interpreting science fiction, incorporating research, using appropriate documentation.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.
Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):
1. Write and develop a thesis in order to engage in focused research and writing based on the research.
2. Compose cogent, clear, and effective essays which respond to various science fiction themes and concepts.
3. Find, evaluate, and use appropriate electronic and print sources.
4. Utilize textual evidence as support for inferences and interpretations in writing.
5. Use appropriate documentation to deal ethically with primary and secondary sources.

Course Outcome(s):

Reflect on the creative process of products of the human imagination and critical thought.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):
1. Examine primary sources of writers reflecting on their own writing processes.
2. Explain how writers relate their work to current world issues/concerns.
3. Analyze how a particular science fiction writer constructs a text.

Methods of Evaluation:
1. Short answer quizzes/tests
2. Essay exams
3. Study guide questions

4. Response papers
5. Written appraisals/reviews of selected dramatic works and/or performances
6. Thesis-driven analytical/argumentative essays
7. Research project(s) involving primary and secondary sources
8. Oral presentation(s)
9. Capstone project

Course Content Outline:

1. Historical development of science fiction
   a. Early and proto-science fiction
   b. Scientific romance
   c. Classic science fiction
   d. Pulp and Golden Age
   e. New Wave
   f. Modern science fiction
   g. Postmodern/contemporary
   h. 21st century/new millennium
2. Subgenres of science fiction
   a. Hard science fiction
   b. Soft science fiction
   c. Science fantasy
   d. Cyberpunk and Steampunk
   e. Juvenile
   f. Sociological
   g. Near Future
   h. Utopian/dystopian
   i. Alternate history
   j. Feminist
   k. Space opera
   l. Science fiction in film, video, and games
3. Elements of literary science fiction
   a. Plot analysis
   b. Character study
   c. Setting
   d. Themes
   e. Symbolism
4. Common themes and tropes in science fiction
   a. Time travel
   b. Space travel
   c. Robots, androids, cyborgs
   d. Artificial life
   e. Aliens
   f. Heroism
   g. Utopias and dystopias
   h. Alternate/parallel universes and dimensions
   i. Alternate timelines
   j. Scientific breakthroughs
5. Creative process
   a. Essays by authors
   b. Author interviews
   c. Authors writing from experience vs. invention
   d. Authors intended audience and purpose
   e. Inspiration
   f. Drafting and revision
   g. Creative elements unique to the science fiction genre

Resources

North, Sheree R., editor. *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora.* New York: Warner Books, 2000.

Roberts, Garyn G., editor. *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction*. New York: Pearson Education, 2019.

Evans, Arthur B., Istvan Csicsery-Ronay Jr., Joan Gordon, Veronica Hollinger, Rob Latham, and Carol McGuirk (Editors). *The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction*. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 2010.

VanderMeer, Jeff and Ann Vandermeer (Editors). *The Big Book of Science Fiction*. New York: Vintage Books, 2016.

Dozois, Gardner (editor). *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirty-Fifth Annual Collection*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2018.

Clarke, Neil (editor). *The Best Science Fiction of the Year: Volume Six*. New York: Skyhorse Publishing, Inc., 2022.

Vinge, Vernor. *True Names: And the Opening of the Cyberspace Frontier*. First Edition. New York: Tor Books, 2001.

Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Left Hand of Darkness*. New York: Ace Books, 1987.

Resources Other

1. Jones, Jeremy L. C. "A Germ of an Idea: an Interview with John Varley" https://clarkesworldmagazine.com/varley_interview/
2. Allardice, Lisa "Margaret Atwood: 'I am not a prophet. Science fiction is really about now'" https://amp.theguardian.com/books/2018/jan/20/margaret-atwood-i-am-not-a-prophet-science-fiction-is-about-now (https://amp.theguardian.com/books/2018/jan/20/margaret-atwood-i-am-not-a-prophet-science-fiction-is-about-now/)
3. Collins, Suzanne "Talks about *The Hunger Games*" (interview on the Genesis of *The Hunger Games)* https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/18/books/suzanne-collins-talks-about-the-hunger-games-the-books-and-the-movies.html
4. Novels, stories, poetry, and other genres
5. Film, video and other appropriate media
6. Web links
   a. *365 Tomorrows*   *https://365tomorrows.com*
   b. *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*   *https://www.analogsf.com*
   c. *Apex Magazine*   *https://apex-magazine.com*
   d. *Ares Magazine*   *http://aresmagazine.com*
   e. *Asimov's Science Fiction*   *https://www.asimovs.com*
   f. *Asymmetry Short Speculative Fiction*   *https://www.asymmetryfiction.com*
   g. *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*   *http://www.beneath-ceaseless-skies.com*
   h. *Clarkesworld Magazine*   *http://clarkesworldmagazine.com*
   i. *Crossed Genres*   *http://crossedgenres.com/magazine*
   j. *Daily Science Fiction*   *https://dailysciencefiction.com*
   k. *Escape Pod Podcast*   *https://escapepod.org*
   l. *Flame Tree Press*   *https://www.flametreepress.com*
   m. *The Hugo Awards*
      http://www.thehugoawards.org/
   n. *Interzone*   *http://ttapress.com/interzone*
   o. *Lightspeed Magazine*   *http://www.lightspeedmagazine.com*
   p. *Locus Magazine*   *https://locusmag.com*
   q. *Metamorphosis Magazine*   *https://magazine.metaphorosis.com*
   r. *Space and Time*   *http://spaceandtime.net*
   s. *Strange Horizons*   *http://strangehorizons.com*
   t. *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* *https://www.sfsite.com/fsf*
   u. *Tor Magazine*   *https://www.tor.com*

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