Instructor:
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Room E-116

# Science Fiction Literature

Welcome to Science Fiction Literature.  This class focuses on the reading, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of science fiction literature and film.  We will read, compare, analyze, present, watch, and write science fiction. Lap top computers will be in the class most days for your use.  Please bring to class:

- ◎ Binder or Folder
- ◎ Paper or Notebook
- ◎ Pen
- ◎ Assigned books

Your grade in this class will be determined by your scores on the various assignments we will do.  Assignments will include essays, final exams, questions & answers, and book reviews.  Late work will be evaluated, but will receive half credit (L).  Missing work receives a score of 40% in the grade book (X).  Your grade will be calculated with a traditional grading scale:

- ◎ A = 90 – 100 %
- ◎ B = 80 – 89 %
- ◎ C = 70 – 79 %
- ◎ D = 60 – 69 %
- ◎ F = 40 – 59 %

Together, we will cover **a lot** of science fiction between now and graduation.  We will explore many of the following titles:

*1984* by George Orwell
*Alien, Prometheus* and *Blade Runner* directed by Ridley Scott
*Back to the Future* directed by Robert Zemeckis
*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
*Brazil, 12 Monkeys* and *Time Bandits* directed by Terry Gilliam
*Contact* by Carl Sagan and directed by Robert Zemeckis
*The Day After Tomorrow* directed by Roland Emmerich
*Decades of Science Fiction*
*District 9* and *Elysium* directed by Neill Blomkamp
*Edge of Tomorrow* directed by Doug Liman
*Enemy Mine* directed by Wolfgang Petersen
*E.T. – The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Minority Report* and *Artificial Intelligence* directed by Steven Spielberg
*Europa Report* directed by Sebastián Cordero
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
*Frequency* directed by Gregory Hoblit
*Gattaca* directed by Andrew Niccol

*Gravity* directed by Alfonso Cuarón
*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
*I Am Legend* by Richard Matheson
*Inception* directed by Christopher Nolan
*The Invisible Man* by H. G. Wells
*The Iron Giant* directed by Brad Bird
*Looper* directed by Rian Johnson
*The Matrix* directed by the Wachowskis
*Moon* directed by Duncan Jones
*Oblivion* directed by Joseph Kosinski
*Planet of the Apes* directed by Franklin J. Schaffner
*Pleasantville* directed by Gary Ross
*Robot and Frank* directed by Jack Schreier
*Solaris* directed by Steven Soderbergh
*Starship Troopers* by Robert Heinlein
*Star Wars* directed by George Lucas
*The Terminator* directed by James Cameron
*The Thing* and *Escape from New York* directed by John Carpenter
*Total Recall* directed by Paul Verhoeven
*WALL-E* directed by Andrew Stanton
*We Can Remember It for You Wholesale* by Philip K. Dick

…and more!

Quarterly Book Reviews:  Choose a Science Fiction book you want to read.  You'll have about seven weeks to read it.  Read the whole book! Take notes while you read because you will write a book review.  Write a review similar to those you find in magazines, on book jackets or in the newspaper.  Your book review should have a **title** separate from the title of the book.  The review needs to include the **title of the book** you read, the **author**, the **publication date** and **publisher**, and the **number of pages**.  You should write your book review in **organized paragraphs** and comment on the **message** of the book, some details from the book, basic **plot and character** information, and your own **opinion** of the book. Would you **recommend** it to others?  Who?  Why?  Evaluate the book's **strengths and weaknesses**, what you liked and disliked about it, and consider what readers can gain from this book.  Discuss the qualities and characteristics which make it a work of **Science Fiction**.  Identify the **categories and themes** of Science Fiction Literature to which the book belongs, and clearly highlight any

technology or mechanical do-dads involved in the action of the novel, but don't spoil a surprise ending!  Your review may make me want to read the book, too!  I will reward Book Reviews submitted early with 5 points extra credit.
To recap, the reviews will be scored on:
- ◎ Original title [5 points]
- ◎ Book's information (title, author, publication date, publisher, # pages) [5 points]
- ◎ Organized paragraphs & good overall writing [20 points]
- ◎ Message of the book [15 points]
- ◎ Basic plot & characters [15 points]

- ◎ Your opinion [10 points]
- ◎ Recommendation [10 points]
- ◎ Strengths & Weaknesses [10 points]
- ◎ Sci Fi Elements (refer to class notes) [10 points]
- ◎ **100 points total possible**

Due dates for the Book Reviews:
- ◎ September 18, 2018
- ◎ December 3, 2018
- ◎ February 27, 2019
- ◎ May 16, 2019
- ◎ Early Reviews are always accepted & greatly appreciated!  5 points extra credit for early submissions.
- ◎ You must submit each book review to turnitin.com

Communication & Information for Sci Fi Lit:
- ◎ For Remind: text **@scifi1819** to 81010
- ◎ For turnitin.com: Class ID **18556306** and enrollment key **scifi** to set up an account & join the Sci Fi Lit class
- ◎ Find more information at Jill Johnson's web page at the FHS web site
- ◎ email Mrs. Johnson: johnsonj@luhsd.net

For turnitin.com, jot down the email address & password you use: _____

Class Overview
Quarter 1:  overview of common categories & themes of science fiction
study of classic science fiction novel
book reviews

Quarter 2:  study of classic science fiction novel
book reviews
fall semester final exams December 19 & 20, 2018

Quarter 3:  study of many sci fi films and themes
essays & notes on films
book/film/game/series reviews

Quarter 4:  study of short stories in *Decades of Science Fiction*
book reviews
4th quarter final exams June 5 & 6, 2019