

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, enjoy, and write about 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, midterm & final exams, reading & film analyses, 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 = 89.6 – 100 %
- ⊙ B = 79.6 – 89.5 %
- ⊙ C = 69.6 – 79.5 %
- ⊙ D = 59.6 – 69.5 %
- ⊙ F = 40 – 59.5 %

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 and Carl Sagan's
Contact directed by Robert Zemeckis
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
Brazil, 12 Monkeys and Time Bandits
directed by Terry Gilliam
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 & Frank directed by Jack Schreier
Solaris directed by Steven Soderbergh
Starship Troopers by Robert Heinlein
Star Wars directed by George Lucas
The Terminator and *Avatar* directed by
James Cameron
The Thing and *Escape from New York*
directed by John Carpenter
The Truman Show directed by Peter Weir
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 16 & 17, 2019
- ⊙ December 5 & 6, 2019
- ⊙ February 27 & 28, 2020
- ⊙ May 13 & 14, 2020
- ⊙ 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 Period 3 (A days): text @**scifi1920a** to 81010
- ⊙ For Remind Period 7 (B days): text @**scifi1920b** to 81010
- ⊙ For turnitin.com: Class ID **21719355** 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 in book clubs
book review
midterm

Quarter 2: study of classic science fiction novel in book clubs
book review
final exam

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

Quarter 4: study of short stories in *Decades of Science Fiction*
book review
final exam

