

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, enjoy, and write about science fiction.

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 = 50 – 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 Reviews: Choose a Science Fiction book you want to read, a Science Fiction series you want to watch, Science Fiction video game you want to play or Science Fiction films (at least 2) you want to experience. You'll have about six weeks. Then, you will write a review similar to those you find in magazines, on book jackets, online or in newspapers. Your review should have a **title** separate from the title of the work. The review needs to include the **title of the work**, the **creator(s)**, the **publication or release date(s)** and **publisher or production company**, and the **length**. You should write your review in **organized paragraphs** and comment on the **message** of the Science Fiction work, some details from the storyline, basic **plot and character** information, and your own **opinion** of the work. Would you **recommend** it to others? Who? Why? Evaluate the work's **strengths and weaknesses**, what you liked and disliked about it, and consider what others can gain from this work. 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 work belongs, and clearly highlight any details which place it in those categories & themes, but don't spoil a surprise ending, unless you really want to! I will reward Reviews submitted early with 5 points extra credit.

To recap, the reviews will be scored on:

- ⊙ Original title [5 points]
- ⊙ Work's information (title, creator, publication/release date, publisher/production company, length) [5 points]
- ⊙ Organized paragraphs & good overall writing [20 points]
- ⊙ Message of the work [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**

Communication & Information for Sci Fi Lit:

- ⊙ For Remind: text @scifi2122 to 81010
- ⊙ email Mrs. Johnson: johnsonj@luhsd.net

Class Overview

Quarter 1: overview of common categories & themes of science fiction
 study of short stories in *Decades of Science Fiction*
 review

Quarter 2: study of classic science fiction novel
 review

Quarter 3: study of sci fi films
 review

Quarter 4: study of classic science fiction novel
 review

