

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, including essays, daily reading, final exams, literature & film analyses, reviews and creative writing. Missing work receives a score of 50% in the grade book. Anyone submitting work that is not their own will be asked to revise. 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! 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
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
Groundhog Day directed by Harold Ramis
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
I Am Legend by Richard Matheson
I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream by
Harlan Ellison

Inception directed by Christopher Nolan
The Invisible Man by H. G. Wells
Looper directed by Rian Johnson
The Matrix directed by the Wachowskis
Moon directed by Duncan Jones
My Dad's an Antibiotic by Sergei
Lukyanenko
Oblivion directed by Joseph Kosinski
The Paper Menagerie by Ken Liu
Planet of the Apes directed by Franklin
J. Schaffner
Pleasantville directed by Gary Ross
Robot & Frank directed by Jack Schreier
Signs directed by M. Night Shyamalan
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! Reviews submitted early will be awarded 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 @78scifi to 81010
- ⦿ email Mrs. Johnson: johnsonj@luhsd.net

Class Overview

Quarter 1: overview of categories & themes of science fiction
study of short stories in *Decades of Science Fiction* and beyond
quarterly review
work on your own original short story

Quarter 2: study of classic science fiction novel
quarterly review
finish your own original short story
character analysis essay
final

Quarter 3: study of sci fi films
sci fi themes analysis essays
quarterly review

Quarter 4: study of classic science fiction novel
quarterly review
research of sci fi authors
final

**All Phones
Stowed in
Classroom
Phone Pockets
During Class**

