

# NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### COURSE SYLLABUS TEMPLATE

Course Code: ENG 2420

Title: Science Fiction

Writing Intensive, Individual And Society

3 Hours / 3 Credits

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course combines analysis of science fiction as literature with consideration of the questions science and technology raise about past, present, and future societies. In class discussions and essays, students will focus on the basic elements of literary analysis, the historical development of the science fiction genre, and the thematic concerns of each assigned text. Class discussions will address issues of form and will delve into the cultural contexts that have helped shaped some of the core tropes of the genre, such as artificial intelligence and human/machine interactions, the exploration of space and time, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life. Attention will also be paid to the ways in which authors have used utopian and dystopian societies of the future to comment upon humanity's present relationship with science and technology.

#### **COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

ENG 1101

#### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

The selection of texts studied in any given semester varies. Each instructor makes an effort to choose exemplary texts that illustrate or encourage discussion around the course theme. In any semester, the selection of texts will influence the emphasis given to sample topics (listed in the course description).

#### **SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENTS and other course requirements**

\*Learning Outcomes in this area may be achieved through a wide variety of methodologies. While all classes will require significant amounts of oral and written communication, instructors may substitute other assignments designed to elicit student responses to the texts and/or to assess student comprehension of texts and topics.

#### **READING**

- Reading will be assigned for each class meeting. Multiple texts will be assigned throughout the semester, including (but not limited to) poetry, essays, novels, graphic novels, and supplementary non-print media

## RESEARCH

- Gather critical sources to create annotated bibliographies, to supplement formal essays, and to appropriately contextualize creative projects

## WRITING – FORMAL AND INFORMAL

\*Because this course is designated writing intensive, the total writing assigned will total 15 pages per student, minimum. Instructors may choose from the following formal and informal writing assignments or design other writing assignments that meet the learning objectives.

- Regular Engagement (Written): Individual and group responses to discussion questions, quizzes, reflections, journals, etc.
- Critical Response Blog Posts: Responses to assigned discussion questions posted on course site asking students to reflect on the themes and concepts that they found interesting and/or challenging in the assigned reading and to discuss those thoughts virtually with classmates
- Annotated Bibliography
- Reflection on Creative Project
- 3 Formal Essays (approx. 1000-1500 words each) that engage with scholarly critical sources
- Exams (midterm and final)

## ORAL & CREATIVE

- Regular Engagement (Oral): Students will be expected to orally express ideas and pose questions
- Oral Presentation: Professors may expect students to lead class discussion, present creative projects, present annotated bibliography research, and/or conduct a group presentation
- Creative Project: Professor may assign a creative interpretation of the course topic or in response to an assigned text

## SUGGESTED GRADE SCALE

Formal Writing	40%
Oral Presentations and Creative Work	10%
Critical Response Blogs	15%
Informal Writing	10%
Active Participation	10%
Exams	15%
Total	100%

## **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES and ASSESSMENT METHODS**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASSESSMENT METHODS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Instructional activity and evaluation methods:</p>
<p>Assess various visions of the future, asking if they are simply fantasies, attempts to come to terms with contemporary situations through extrapolation into the future, or actual attempts to predict the future.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">...</p>
<p>Present their own views on the effectiveness of the literature and films under consideration. Do they raise or answer questions? How? Are they effective as entertainment? Why or why not?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">...</p>
<p>Examine the tensions between the individual and society as presented in science fiction.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">...</p>
<p>Discuss how an individual can maintain a personal ethical standard in a milieu where all standards easily erode.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">...</p>
<p>Examine the value of the genre against actual history and consider whether or not the individual can have an impact on the forces of change.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">...</p>

**GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES and ASSESSMENT METHODS**

<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</b> For the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:	<b>ASSESSMENT METHODS</b> Instructional activity and evaluation methods.
<b>Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reading and discussion will be measured through grading of discussion question responses and oral participation.</li> <li>● Written analysis of texts will be measured through grading of essays.</li> <li>● Knowledge of texts will be measured through quizzes and exams.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reading and discussion will be measured through grading of discussion question responses and oral participation.</li> <li>● Written analysis of texts will be measured through grading of essays.</li> </ul>
<b>Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Written analysis of texts will be measured through grading of essays.</li> <li>● Knowledge of texts will be measured through quizzes and exams.</li> </ul>

