

**Project 1: Literature and Technology // Tuesday, June 7, 2016**Basic Information:

- 6/7: Paper assigned today. **Use two short stories from Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles* to explain how Bradbury's warning about our increasing dependence upon technology can be applied to your present academic major or career.**
- 6/8: Turn in a one paragraph summary of one of Bradbury's short stories from *The Martian Chronicles* (10 points). At the start of class today, submit a typed summary of one of the stories you will use as evidence in your paper. If you later decide not to use the story, that's OK; you don't need to resubmit this part of the project. Your summary should be entirely your own work. Synthesize and present the main ideas and elements of the story as you understand it. Do not use summaries available online. Do not read those summaries "to get ideas" and then summarize those summaries. Do not put those summaries in your own words. Actually read the story and summarize it.
- 6/9: Outline of Project 1 due at the start of class (10 points). Outline must include introduction, thesis, the intended purpose of each paragraph, the summary paragraph from 6/8 in its intended location, and at least two quotations (one from each story) in the paragraphs where you intend to use them. If you decide to make changes to your outline after you've submitted it, that's OK; you don't need to resubmit this part of the project.
- 6/14: Complete rough draft due at the start of class (20 points); peer review in class (10 points). To receive full credit for a rough draft, you must submit a printed and stapled draft that is at least 1500 words long and which represents a good faith effort to complete the assignment. In class, you'll work with at least one other student to identify areas of your draft that are working well and areas that may be in need of revision. You'll complete a peer review handout in class, which you'll need to submit with your final draft on 6/15.
- 6/15: Final draft of paper submitted at the start of class (50 points). Papers must be at least 1500 words long and adhere to MLA guidelines. Papers must be submitted in hard copy; no emailed papers will be graded. Please refer to the paper rubric in your syllabus for information about how this assignment will be evaluated. This assignment is worth 15% of your semester grade. Reminder about Academic Integrity: Responsible scholarship requires you to submit work that is entirely your own, and that properly cites and acknowledges any source material. Acts of plagiarism will result in a zero (0) for this assignment, and may result in further penalty. This assignment does not call for any research or "outside sources." Please ask if you have any questions.

Purpose: The intellectual task of this paper is to analyze the connection(s) between or among various areas of study (or academic departments). Your paper should demonstrate that you've read the stories carefully, and that you've considered the possible applications of the six elements of fiction (but particularly the element of Theme) to fields other than English. This course is part of your General Education requirements; this assignment will help you identify some of the reasons why.

Advice: The best papers will assert a clear argument (thesis) early, and then work logically to develop and support that argument. The most successful responses to this assignment will go beyond summary or simple compare/contrast maneuvers, and will instead take risks with original interpretations or creative readings of the texts.

You might want to think about the following questions, though you are not obliged to answer them overtly in your paper:

- What could someone in your field learn though these stories that conventional text books might omit?
- How does fiction let us examine issues that we might not otherwise be able to examine?
- Are there other themes in the collection that also relate to your chosen field?
- What is the role of technology in your chosen field, and what might be the consequences if that technology is allowed to advance unchecked?

To successfully discuss and analyze the texts, writers will use quotations appropriately and in the service of an argument. In other words, quotations will be used to demonstrate parts of arguments, or to explain a writer's point, and the most successful papers will include appropriate evaluations, analyses, and discussions of any quotations they include; quotations will not be expected to "speak for themselves."

Remember to seek out any assistance you need: use the resources on campus or visit my office hours if you have questions about your progress or goals for this assignment. I'm happy to read drafts if you give them to me at least 24 hours before an office hours appointment, and I'm always happy to discuss your progress on any assignment, at any stage.