

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES
ENGLISH 2071F/G (SPECULATIVE FICTION: SCIENCE FICTION)
ONLINE Summer 2015--Section 650

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The science fiction course explores a selection of science fiction short stories and novels by focusing on the author's imaginative recreation of the human world. The course focuses upon critical science fiction themes such as the creation of artificial intelligence, the reconstruction of a conventional social and political order, the breakdown of traditional gender definitions, alien encounters, and explorations of otherness.

Please note that English 134E is an antirequisite to this course; hence, if you have taken English 134E, you cannot receive credit for English 171F/G.

COURSE TEXTS

- * Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*.
- * Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*.
- * --. *The War of the Worlds*.
- * Miller, Walter M. *A Canticle for Lebowitz*.
- * Le Guin, Ursula. *The Left Hand of Darkness*.
- * Haldeman, Joe. *Forever Peace*.
- * Gibson, William. *Neuromancer*.
- * Piercy, Marge. *He, She and It*.
- * Le Guin, Ursula and Attebery, Brian, eds. *The Norton Book of Science Fiction*.

Reading and working with these specific editions is preferred, especially for essays and in discussing the texts. If you already have some or all of the texts in different editions, then inform me what edition you will be using on your essays. The UWO Bookstore will have these texts in stock, and you can order them on-line from the Bookstore. For more information, go to <http://www.bookstore.uwo.ca>. You may also find the books at a local bookseller.

During the course, you are expected to read the relevant sections of the course package in combination with the texts. The package provides important background information on and interpretations of the texts in order to guide you through the readings.

WEEK 6— *A Canticle for Leibowitz*.

WEEK 7— New Concerns and Women’s Science Fiction. Begin *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

WEEK 8— *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

WEEK 9— Alien Encounters. Begin *Forever Peace*.

WEEK 10— *Forever Peace* and *The Body*.

WEEK 11— William Gibson, *Neuromancer*.

WEEK 12— Marge Piercy, *He, She and It* and Conclusion.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Essay # 1 (1,500 words / 6 pages)	25%
Essay # 2 (2,000 words / 8 pages)	35%
Discussion bonus points	1.5%
Final Exam	40%

PLAGIARISM

There is **ZERO** tolerance for plagiarism in this course.

Please read the official University of Western Ontario notice below. A first offence will result in a mark of **zero** on the assignment, and the Department of English as well as your Faculty will be notified (this is the minimum penalty); a second, or very blatant, offence will result in **failure** of the course and debarment from all further Department of English courses. The Department of English also takes seriously internal plagiarism; you should be aware that the department keeps a database of all internet essay sites. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor or the English Undergraduate Office.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper

