

Department of English & Writing Studies

Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction
English 2071F/G (650)
Summer 2017

Instructor: Professor John Kelly

Antirequisite(s): 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.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

The science fiction course explores a selection of science fiction short stories and novels by

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.

Course Materials**Texts:**

1. Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*.
2. Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*.
3. --. *The War of the Worlds*.
4. Miller, Walter M. *A Canticle for Lebowitz*.
5. Le Guin, Ursula. *The Left Hand of Darkness*.
6. Haldeman, Joe. *Forever Peace*.
7. Gibson, William. *Neuromancer*.
8. Piercy, Marge. *He, She and It*.
9. 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.

Timetable

- WEEK 1** **INTRODUCTION:** Introduction and Introductory stories. Begin *Frankenstein*.
- WEEK 2** *Frankenstein*.
- WEEK 3** *The Time Machine*.
- WEEK 4** Wells, *War of the World*.
- WEEK 5** Utopian / Dystopian stories and begin *A Canticle For Leibowitz*.
- WEEK 6** *A Canticle for Leibowitz*.
- WEEK 7** *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.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be

together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

