ENGL 293 - Science Fiction

3 credits, 16 weeks, 3 hours lecture
An introduction to science fiction as a genre and a survey of works and trends.
Prerequisite: 6 credits of Junior English or equivalent

Instructor

Dr. Ryan J. Cox
S211C
780-791-4837
ryan.cox@keyano.ca

Office Hours

Monday 2:00 – 3:50pm
Wednesday 1:00 – 2:50pm
Thursday 11:00 – 11:50

Hours of Instruction

Monday 4:00 – 4:50pm
Thursday 1:00-2:50pm

Required Resources

Stranger in a Strange Land, Heinlein, ISBN 978-0441790340
Snow Crash, Stephenson, ISBN 978-0553380958

Other resources will be available via Moodle

Course Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate theoretical knowledge of science fiction
2. Explain the structure and discourse of selected works of science fiction
3. Write scholarly argumentative essays in the MLA notational style
4. Understand genre and its relationship with social and cultural forces

Evaluation

Response Essays 20%
Critical Review 20%
Research Essay 30%
Final Exam 30%
Total 100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Response Essay

Students are required to complete a series of 4 short essays of 2-3 pages each in which they explore that week's reading in greater detail. Response papers are to be written about the readings in advance of classroom discussion. These essays should advance an argument about the text. These four essays are to be written at your discretion throughout the semester, however, only one paper can be submitted at a time and at least one response essay must be submitted by the week of Feb. 18. Marked out of 5; handed in at the beginning of the first class of the week.

Research Essay

For this assignment, you will be expected to write a detailed, well researched, thesis driven essay on a text or texts from the course. This essay should demonstrate your mastery of the text(s), your ability to effectively integrate your research into your writing, a familiarity with the current critical discourses surrounding your topic, and your ability to write at the university level. This assignment will conform to MLA guidelines for research papers. Length: 8-10 pgs.

Critical Review

Each student will be responsible for a video or digital presentation wherein you will address one of the texts from the list provided on moodle. The texts represent a mixture of critical and creative work, and some texts are bundled together due to length or complexity. The student will be expected to summarize the major points of the texts—argument, plot, etc—and subsequently offer a critical evaluation of the text. Please refer to the provided examples of critical reviews as a further guideline. Videos will be between 10 and 15 minutes in length and should be submitted as a playable movie file (MP4, AVI, MPEG or MOV) via a disk, jumpdrive, email or a link to YouTube. If you submit an uncompiled video file it will be considered late 1 day and you will be given a limited window to re-submit. Students are also expected to submit a hardcopy of their script with the video.

Examinations

The final exam will be two hours in length and written during the University Studies examination period. It will involve a combination of short-answer questions and essay questions.
Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Alpha Grade</th>
<th>4.0 Scale</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Rubric for Letter Grades</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>&gt; 92.9</td>
<td>Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>85 – 92.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>80 – 84.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77 – 79.9</td>
<td>Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>74 – 76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>70 – 73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>67 – 69.9</td>
<td>Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progression</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>64 – 66.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60 – 63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>55 – 59.9</td>
<td>Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.</td>
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<td>Minimum Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>50 – 54.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt; 50</td>
<td>Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.</td>
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Proposed Schedule of Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18-22</td>
<td>A Martian Named Smith: Grokking the Earth from the Outside</td>
<td>Heinlein, <em>Stranger in a Strange Land</em></td>
<td>Jan 18: Last day to Drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 25-29</td>
<td>Klaatu Verada Nikto: Comparing Heinlein and Wise’s Alien Outsiders</td>
<td>Heinlein, cont’d; Wise, <em>The Day The Earth Stood Still</em></td>
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<td>Feb 1-5</td>
<td>Social Problems in Space: LeGuin, Gender, Politics, and Community</td>
<td>LeGuin, <em>The Left Hand of Darkness</em></td>
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<td>Feb 8-12</td>
<td>Social Problems in Space 2</td>
<td>LeGuin, cont’d</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Author/Source</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Feb 15-19</td>
<td>The Spice Must Flow: Reading <em>Dune</em> in YMM</td>
<td>Herbert, <em>Dune</em></td>
<td>Critical review Due Feb 18</td>
<td>Feb 15 Family Day</td>
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<td>Feb 22-26</td>
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<td>Reading Week</td>
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<td>Feb 29-Mar 4</td>
<td>The Spice Must Flow 2</td>
<td>Herbert, cont’d</td>
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<td>Mar 7-11</td>
<td>Are You Three Law Compliant?: Science Fiction asking the Biggest Question</td>
<td>Asmiov, <em>I, Robot</em></td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
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<td>Mar 14-18</td>
<td>Passing the Voigt-Kampff, Constructing Humanity?</td>
<td><em>Blade Runner</em></td>
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<td>Mar 21-25</td>
<td>Have you ever actually seen your own brain?: Cyborgs, Dualism and Identity Crises</td>
<td><em>Ghost in the Shell</em></td>
<td>March 25 good Friday</td>
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<td>Apr 4-8</td>
<td>The Nam-Shub of Enki 2</td>
<td><em>Snow Crash</em>, cont’d</td>
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<td>Apr 11-16</td>
<td>The Future is dangerous, Avoid the Narrative: Deconstructing Sci-Fi</td>
<td><em>Scalzi, Redshirts</em></td>
<td>April 15: Last day of Classes</td>
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<td>Apr 18-27</td>
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<td>Final Exams</td>
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**Please Note:**
Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College Credit Calendar.

**Performance Requirements**

**Late Policy**

Late work will be accepted, however, it will be penalized at a rate of 10%/Business Day. If it is turned in a week or more late, it will not be accepted. It should also be noted that late material will receive no feedback from the instructor. It is your responsibility to meet the due dates for the assigned material.

**Standards for Written Assignments**

Learning how to follow house style sheets is one of the most important skills a writer can develop. To aid you in your quest to learn these skills I have provided a document entitled “Standards for Written Assignments” on Moodle. If your paper does not conform to these standards, expect to lose marks.
All work must be TYPED, double spaced, and have proper MLA documentation (unless instructed otherwise). Do NOT submit work to me by e-mail. Hard copies are not only preferred, they are required. Be sure to keep a copy of any essay that you hand in.

Sensitivity, Respect, and Subject Matter

Some of the material we will be covering this semester is of a charged nature—whether in terms of form, content or politics. As critics, we cannot shy away from this material; however, we must understand that this material may generate a wide variety of reactions and opinions among our colleagues in the classroom. Thus, it is imperative that we remain aware of, and sympathetic to the reactions and opinions of our classmates. Respect and sensitivity will produce a stronger learning environment and generate better, more nuanced discussions.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student’s learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person’s work as one’s own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College 2015-2016 credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre
The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.
Authorization
This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

Ryan J. Cox, Instructor

Louis Dingley, Chair  Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean  Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:
Instructor
Registrar’s Office