

FYE 1600-32
First Year Experience: Science Fiction
Fall 2016

SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Seminar: Monday & Wednesday 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM, MPC 105

Writing Workshop: Tues 11:20 AM - 12:35 PM, Fri 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM, MPC 105

Lecture: Thursday 11:20 AM - 12:35 PM, Chapman Auditorium (CGC 126)

INSTRUCTORS FOR FYE 1600-32

SEMINAR

LAUREN TUREK

LTUREK@TRINITY.EDU

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OFFICE: CGC 220D

OFFICE HOURS: M 1-3 TH 9:30-11:20

PEER TUTOR: NATALIE BELEW

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WRITING WORKSHOP

FRED LOXSOM

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(210) 999-7570

OFFICE: NH 348

OFFICE HOURS: W 9:00-11:30, FRI 9:00-11:30

PEER TUTOR: CORRIN MCCULLOUGH

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Course Description

Science fiction is often thought of as a literature of the imagination, or a literature of the future or of other worlds. In this First-Year Experience, however, students will find that science fiction critiques and comments on the world we live in today as much as it speculates about the future. Students will read several classic novels, short stories, and films that confront such timeless themes as politics and religion, humanity and technology, gender and environmentalism. The approach will be eclectic, borrowing methods and perspectives from the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. The combination of reading, writing, and discussion offers students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the liberal arts experience as they journey “where no one has gone before.”

The FYE meets five days a week. On Thursdays, all sections of the Science Fiction FYE will meet together in Chapman Auditorium, where an invited lecturer will speak on the reading assigned for that week, or a topic associated with that reading. On MW/TF, students will meet in their classrooms, alternating between writing and seminar instructors.

Texts

1. Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*. Ed. J. Paul Hunter, Second Norton Critical Edition. New York: WW Norton, 2012.
2. Robert A. Heinlein. *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*. New York: Orb, 1966.
3. Ursula K. LeGuin. *The Lathe of Heaven*. New York: Scribner, 1971.
4. Neal Stephenson. *Snow Crash*. New York: Bantam, 1992.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the First Year Experience (FYE), students will have demonstrated the ability to analyze and interpret sophisticated texts and ideas through:

1. analytical and argumentative writing
2. reasoned discussion of substantive issues
3. oral presentations
4. locating and evaluating diverse information sources to enhance their understanding of course materials

Assignments

Common Learning Experiences (CLEs)

Students will be responsible for asking questions of the guest lecturers immediately following each Thursday lecture.

Writing Workshop Sub-Section

The Writing Workshop component of the course will focus on critical reading, writing, and thinking skills, emphasizing writing as an analytic and persuasive activity. We will concentrate on close reading, carefully developed argument, critical analysis, and editing techniques in an attempt to foster the kinds of writing that you will be asked to do throughout your academic career.

Requirements: **6 assignments**. All assignments, readings, and papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates and must be completed in order to pass the course. Late work will be penalized with a lowered grade for each day late. Essays over four days late will not be accepted.

Seminar Sub-Section

Students will hand in **10 assignments** throughout the term. The topics of these brief assignments will deal with the reading assignments and the lecture content. Since the ideas

for the assignments will grow out of class discussion and lectures, attendance and active, intelligent class participation are mandatory and will be considered in the final course grade.

Oral participation is an integral part of the course and gives the students an opportunity to try out ideas for the paper assignments. Students should also arrive at the seminars armed with questions about the texts under discussion.

There will be one midterm examination during the course of the semester and a cumulative final exam, all involving short essays and identifications.

No late work will be accepted.

General Expectations for Seminars and Writing Workshops:

Readings: Instructors expect students to have read assignments carefully by the assigned dates and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Please bring the readings to all classes and lectures.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Excessive absences and repeated lateness will result in a lowered course grade. Attendance will be taken at all common experience lectures and both class sub-sections.

Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices: Please don't use electronic devices during CLE lectures. Check with instructors about using these devices during other class sessions.

Academic Integrity

We expect students to abide by the Academic Honor Code to which they pledged upon enrollment. Instructors expect all students to be thoroughly familiar with the [Honor Code](https://inside.trinity.edu/policies/honor-code) (available at: <https://inside.trinity.edu/policies/honor-code>).

With increasing use of Internet sources and "cut and paste" technology, it is all too easy to plagiarize the work of others. This can happen especially when you are rushed, tired, and generally stressed. Whether intentional, or due simply to forgetting to include proper citations, or especially to failing to exercise due caution in using your own wording when paraphrasing another's words, or neglecting to indicate by quotation marks the actual words of another author, it is still plagiarism!

Needless to say, there are other forms of academic dishonesty than plagiarizing from the Internet. Please be aware of other behaviors such as unauthorized collaboration that constitute violations of academic integrity in its various forms.

The instructors have a basic faith in the integrity of students and their desire to live in a world where fairness and trust are dominant features of the way we conduct our lives in community

with others. Understanding and observing academic integrity are part of building that world of fairness and trust, right here at Trinity. However, should we become aware of violations of academic integrity, we will file the necessary charges with the Academic Honor Council.

If you have any questions or doubts relating to academic integrity regarding any assignments for this class, including what help you may or may not receive on any given assignment, PLEASE ASK YOUR INSTRUCTORS!

Peer Tutors

Each section of the FYE has a peer tutor for the writing workshop and a peer tutor for the seminar. They attend their respective classes as well as the weekly common learning experiences. They are involved in class discussions and are available to talk with you outside of class. The peer tutors for both the writing workshop and seminar sections can be particularly helpful as you develop your ideas for your papers or as you prepare to lead class discussion. They read and comment on, but do not grade, student work. The professors alone make the final decision concerning all grades.

Grading

Writing Workshop Sub-Section:

Six essays: 70%

Class participation (class discussion, oral presentations, information literacy): 30%

Seminar Sub-Section:

Midterm: 15%

Final: 25%

Ten Small assignments: 40%

Class participation (comprised, at least in part, of oral assignments): 20%

Students will receive one grade for the course. This six-credit grade is determined jointly by the writing workshop instructor and the first-year seminar instructor at the end of the semester. Student improvement in each sub-section will be taken into account in determining the final grade.

Science Fiction FYE Sections and Instructors

Mackenzie Brown, Heather Sullivan
David Crockett, Duane Coltharp
Ruben Dupertuis, Brian Miceli
Jim Shinkle, Jeff Lacy
Lauren Turek, Fred Loxsom

Lecturers for Common Learning Experiences (in order of first appearance)

Fred Loxsom (Physics & Astronomy, emeritus)
Heather Sullivan (Modern Languages and Literatures)
Jeff Lacy (Library)
Andrew Hageman (Luther College)
David Crockett (Political Science)
Les Bleamaster (Science Facilities Manager, CSI)
Lauren Turek (History)
Mackenzie Brown (Religion)
Patrick Keating (Communication)
Duane Coltharp (English)
Aaron Delwiche (Communication)
Rubén Dupertuis (Religion)
Jim Shinkle (Biology)
Ben Stevens (Classical Studies)

Course Outline and Assignments

Week 1

Wednesday, Aug 24	Meet with Writing Workshop and Seminar Instructors in MPC 105
Thursday, Aug 25	CLE: Science Fiction and Science Fact (Fred Loxsom) in CGC 126
Friday, Aug 26	WW: Bradbury, "The Murderer"; Asimov, "Reason"; Le Guin, "Coming of Age in Karhide"

Week 2

Monday, Aug 29	Seminar: Bradbury, "The Murderer"; Asimov, "Reason"; Le Guin, "Coming of Age in Karhide"
Tuesday, Aug 30	WW: <i>Frankenstein</i> 3-105, chapters I.I – II.IX
Wednesday, Aug 31	Seminar: <i>Frankenstein</i> 3-105, chapters I.I – II.IX
Thursday, Sep 1	CLE: <i>Frankenstein</i> (Heather Sullivan)
Friday, Sep 2	WW: Oral Presentations

Week 3

Monday, Sep 5	Labor Day, No class
Tuesday, Sep 6	WW: <i>Frankenstein</i> 107-161, chapters III.I – III.VII
Wednesday, Sep 7	Seminar: <i>Frankenstein</i> 107-161, chapters III.I – III.VII
	<u>Response Paper #1 Due</u>
Thursday, Sep 8	CLE: <i>Frankenstein</i> (Jeff Lacy)
Friday, Sep 9	WW: Asimov, "The Bicentennial Man"

Film Showing: *Blade Runner* – TBD

Week 4

Monday, Sep 12	Seminar: Asimov, "The Bicentennial Man"
Tuesday, Sep 13	WW: Movie - <i>Blade Runner</i> (1982) Paper 1 - Analysis
Wednesday, Sep 14	Seminar: Movie - <i>Blade Runner</i> (1982)
	<u>Response Paper #2 (Movie Review) Due</u>
Thursday, Sep 15	CLE: AI and the Human/Posthuman (Andrew Hageman)
Friday, Sep 16	WW: Movie - <i>Ex Machina</i> (2015)

Week 5

Monday, Sep 19

Seminar: Movie - *Ex Machina* (2015)

Tuesday, Sep 20

WW: *Moon* 1-96, chapters 1-6

Wednesday, Sep 21

Seminar: *Moon* 1-96, chapters 1-6

Thursday, Sep 22

CLE: Politics in Science Fiction (David Crockett)

Friday, Sep 23

WW: *Moon* 97-184, chapters 7-13

Week 6

Monday, Sep 26

Seminar: *Moon* 97-184, chapters 7-13

Tuesday, Sep 27

WW: *Moon* 185-304, chapters 14-22

Wednesday, Sep 28

Seminar: *Moon* 185-304, chapters 14-22

Response Paper #3 Due

Thursday, Sep 29

CLE: The Science of Rock-Throwing (Les Bleamaster)

Friday, Sep 30

WW: *Moon* 305-382, chapters 23-30

Week 7

Monday, Oct 3

Seminar: *Moon* 305-382, chapters 23-30

Tuesday, Oct 4

WW: Movie - *Rollerball* (1975)

Wednesday, Oct 5

Seminar: Movie - *Rollerball* (1975)

Response Paper #4 (Movie Review) Due

Thursday, Oct 6

CLE: Science Fiction in Historical Context (Lauren Turek)

Friday, Oct 7

WW: Midterm Review

Week 8

Monday, Oct 10

Seminar: Midterm Exam

Tuesday, Oct 11

WW: *Lathe* 1-50, chapters 1-4

Wednesday, Oct 12

Seminar: *Lathe* 1-50, chapters 1-4

Thursday, Oct 13

CLE: The Tao of Dreaming (Mackenzie Brown)

Friday, Oct 14

WW: Mid-semester Recess, No class

Week 9

Monday, Oct 17 Seminar: *Lathe* 51-111, chapters 5-7

Response Paper #5 Due

Tuesday, Oct 18 WW: *Lathe* 51-111, chapters 5-7

Wednesday, Oct 19 Seminar: *Lathe* 112-184, chapters 8-11

Thursday, Oct 20 CLE: Science Fiction and Film (Patrick Keating)

Friday, Oct 21 WW: *Lathe* 112-184, chapters 8-11

Week 10

Monday, Oct 24 Seminar: Movie - *Brazil* (1985)

Response Paper #6 (Movie Review) Due

Tuesday, Oct 25 WW: Movie - *Brazil* (1985)

Wednesday, Oct 26 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 1-89, chapters 1-11

Thursday, Oct 27 CLE: *Snow Crash* (Duane Coltharp)

Friday, Oct 28 WW: *Snow Crash* 1-89, chapters 1-11

Week 11

Monday, Oct 31 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 89-183, chapters 12-23

Response Paper #7 Due

Tuesday, Nov 1 WW: *Snow Crash* 89-183, chapters 12-23

Wednesday, Nov 2 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 183-271, chapters 24-35

Thursday, Nov 3 CLE: Lessons from the Virtual World Gold Rush (Aaron Delwiche)

Friday, Nov 4 WW: *Snow Crash* 183-271, chapters 24-35

Week 12

Monday, Nov 7 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 271-365, chapters 36-49

Tuesday, Nov 8 WW: *Snow Crash* 271-365, chapters 36-49

Wednesday, Nov 9 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 365-468, chapters 50-70

Response Paper #8 Due

Thursday, Nov 10 CLE: *Snow Crash* (Rubén Dupertuis)
Friday, Nov 11 WW: *Snow Crash* 365-468, chapters 50-70

Week 13

Monday, Nov 14 Seminar: Movie - *The Matrix* (1999)

Tuesday, Nov 15 WW: Movie - *The Matrix* (1999)
Paper 5 - Research

Wednesday, Nov 16 Seminar: Keyes, “Flowers for Algernon”; Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “A Woman’s Liberation”

Response Paper #9 Due

Thursday, Nov 17 CLE: *The Evolution of Sex* (Jim Shinkle)

Friday, Nov 18 WW: Keyes, “Flowers for Algernon”; Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “A Woman’s Liberation”

Week 14

Monday, Nov 21 Seminar: Keyes, “Flowers for Algernon”; Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “A Woman’s Liberation”

Tuesday, Nov 22 Oral Presentations

Nov 23-25: **Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15

Monday, Nov 28 Seminar: Keyes, “Flowers for Algernon”; Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “A Woman’s Liberation”

Tuesday, Nov 29 WW: Movie - *Alien* (1979)
Paper 6 - Summary

Wednesday, Nov 30 Seminar: Movie - *Alien* (1979)

Response Paper #10 (Movie Review) Due

Thursday, Dec 1 CLE: *Aliens and Gender* (Ben Stevens)

Friday, Dec 2 WW: Movie - *Aliens* (1986)

Week 16

Monday, Dec 5

Seminar: Movie: *Aliens* (1986)

Tuesday, Dec 6

WW: Wrap-up

Friday, Dec 9

Seminar Final exam (12-3pm)