

FYE 1600-33

First Year Experience: Science Fiction

Fall 2017

SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Seminar: Monday & Wednesday 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM, MMS 140

Writing Workshop: Tues 11:20 AM - 12:35 PM, Fri 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM, MMS 140

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

INSTRUCTORS FOR FYE 1600-33

SEMINAR

LAUREN TUREK

LTUREK@TRINITY.EDU

(210) 999-7625

OFFICE: CGC 220D

OFFICE HOURS: MW 1-2PM TH 10-11AM

PEER TUTOR: MEG CHASE

MCHASE1@TRINITY.EDU

WRITING WORKSHOP

MICHAEL HUGHES

mhughes@trinity.edu

(210) 999-8171

OFFICE: LIBRARY

OFFICE HOURS: TBD

PEER TUTOR: ANNA WALLACK

AWALLACK@TRINITY.EDU

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. Philip K. Dick. *The Man in the High Castle*. Boston: Mariner, 1962.
3. Ursula K. LeGuin. *The Lathe of Heaven*. New York: Scribner, 1971.
4. Neal Stephenson. *Snow Crash*. New York: Bantam, 1992.

Required short stories are available on the [Tlearn master page](#).

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. All cell phones should be put away during class. Texting and emailing during class are strictly forbidden.

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. Be sure to check in with the designated peer tutor either before or after the common experience lectures.

Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices: Please don't use electronic devices during CLE lectures and do not use cell phones in class unless instructed to do so. Laptops are permissible if they are used only for notetaking. If you are doing non-FYE work on your laptop during class, you will not be allowed to use it.

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 presentations): 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.

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

Ben Stevens (Department of Classical Studies)

Heather Sullivan (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures)

Jeff Lacy (Library)

Rubén Dupertuis (Department of Religion)

Stephen Field (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures)

Lauren Turek (Department of History)

Brian Miceli (Department of Mathematics)

Patrick Keating (Department of Communication)

Duane Coltharp (Department of English)

Aaron Delwiche (Department of Communication)

Jan Odegard (Rice University)

Jim Shinkle (Department of Biology)

Course Outline and Assignments
SEMINAR DAYS IN BOLD

Week 1

Wednesday, Aug 23

Thursday, Aug 24

Friday, Aug 25

Introductions

CLE: Science Fiction Genres (Ben Stevens) in CGC 126

WW: Bradbury, "The Murderer"; Asimov, "Reason"; Brubaker, "WX-488 and the New Synthetic Evolution"

Week 2

Monday, Aug 28

Tuesday, Aug 29

Wednesday, Aug 30

Thursday, Aug 30

Friday, Sep 1

Seminar: Bradbury, "The Murderer"; Asimov, "Reason"; Brubaker, "WX-488 and the New Synthetic Evolution"

WW: *Frankenstein* 3-105, chapters I.I – II.IX

Seminar: *Frankenstein* 3-105, chapters I.I – II.IX

CLE: *Frankenstein*: Science (Fiction) and Promethean Responsibility (Heather Sullivan)

WW: *Frankenstein* 107-161, chapters III.I – III.VII

Week 3

Monday, Sep 4

Tuesday, Sep 5

Wednesday, Sep 6

Thursday, Sep 7

Friday, Sep 8

Labor Day, No class

WW: *Frankenstein* 107-161, chapters III.I – III.VII

Seminar: *Frankenstein* 107-161, chapters III.I – III.VII

Response Paper #1 Due

CLE: Monsters in Science Fiction (Jeff Lacy)

WW: Movie: Blade Runner (1982)

Week 4

Monday, Sep 11

Tuesday, Sep 12

Wednesday, Sep 13

Thursday, Sep 14

Friday, Sep 15

Seminar: Movie: *Blade Runner* (1982)

WW: Movie - *Ex Machina* (2015)

Seminar: Movie – *Ex Machina* (2015)

Response Paper #2 (Movie Review) Due

CLE: *Ex Machina* without the Gods (Rubén Dupertuis)

WW

Week 5

Monday, Sep 18

Tuesday, Sep 19

Wednesday, Sep 20

Thursday, Sep 21

Seminar: Group Presentations

WW: *Man in the High Castle*, 1-78, chapters 1-5

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CLE: I Ching or Book of Changes (Stephen Field)

Friday, Sep 22	WW: <i>Man in the High Castle</i> , 79-176, chapters 6-10
Week 6	
Monday, Sep 25	Seminar: <i>Man in the High Castle</i> , 79-176, chapters 6-10
Tuesday, Sep 26	WW: <i>Man in the High Castle</i> , 177-274, chapters 11-15
Wednesday, Sep 27	Seminar: <i>Man in the High Castle</i> , 177-274, chapters 11-15 <u>Response Paper #3 Due</u>
Thursday, Sep 28	CLE: Science Fiction in Historical Context (Lauren Turek)
Friday, Sep 29	WW: Movie: <i>Rollerball</i> (1975)
Week 7	
Monday, Oct 2	Seminar: Movie: <i>Rollerball</i> (1975)
Tuesday, Oct 3	Seminar: Individual Presentations (Dr. Turek!) <u>Response Paper #4 (Movie Review) Due</u>
Wednesday, Oct 4	WW: Midterm Exam Review (Mr. Hughes!)
Thursday, Oct 5	CLE: Midterm exam
Friday, Oct 6	WW: <i>Lathe</i> 1-50, chapters 1-4
Week 8	
Monday, Oct 9	Seminar: <i>Lathe</i> 1-50, chapters 1-4
Tuesday, Oct 10	WW: <i>Lathe</i> 51-111, chapters 5-7
Wednesday, Oct 11	Seminar: <i>Lathe 51-111, chapters 5-7</i>
Thursday, Oct 12	CLE: The Science (Fiction?) of Dreams (Brian Miceli)
Friday, Oct 13	WW: <i>Lathe</i> 112-184, chapters 8-11
Week 9	
Monday, Oct 16	Seminar: <i>Lathe</i> 112-184, chapters 8-11 <u>Response Paper #5 Due</u>
Tuesday, Oct 17	WW: Movie: <i>Brazil</i> (1985)
Wednesday, Oct 18	Seminar: Movie: <i>Brazil</i> (1985)
Thursday, Oct 19	CLE: Science Fiction and Film (Patrick Keating)
Friday, Oct 20	Mid-semester Recess
Week 10	
Monday, Oct 23	Seminar: Individual Presentations <u>Response Paper #6 (Movie Review of <i>Brazil</i>) Due</u>
Tuesday, Oct 24	WW: Overflow
Wednesday, Oct 25	Seminar: <i>Snow Crash</i> 1-129, chapters 1-15
Thursday, Oct 26	CLE: <i>Snow Crash</i> and the Cyberpunk Aesthetic (Duane Coltharp)

Friday, Oct 27 WW: *Snow Crash* 1-129, chapters 1-15

Week 11

Monday, Oct 30 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 129-241, chapters 16-31
Response Paper #7 Due

Tuesday, Oct 31 WW: *Snow Crash* 129-241, chapters 16-31

Wednesday, Nov 1 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 242-346, chapters 32-47

Thursday, Nov 2 CLE: Lessons from the Virtual World Gold Rush (Aaron Delwiche)

Friday, Nov 3 WW: *Snow Crash* 242-346, chapters 32-47

Week 12

Monday, Nov 6 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 346-468, chapters 48-70

Tuesday, Nov 7 WW: *Snow Crash* 346-468, chapters 48-70

Wednesday, Nov 8 Seminar: *Snow Crash* 346-468, chapters 48-70
Response Paper #8 Due

Thursday, Nov 9 CLE: AI (Jan Odegard, Rice University)

Friday, Nov 11 WW: overflow

Week 13

Monday, Nov 13 Seminar: Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “Coming of Age in Karhide”; Butler, “Bloodchild”

Tuesday, Nov 14 WW: Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “Coming of Age in Karhide”; Butler, “Bloodchild”

Wednesday, Nov 15 Seminar: Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “Coming of Age in Karhide”; Butler, “Bloodchild”
Response Paper #9 Due

Thursday, Nov 16 CLE: The Evolution of Sex (Jim Shinkle)

Friday, Nov 17 WW: Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “Coming of Age in Karhide”; Butler, “Bloodchild”

Week 14

Monday, Nov 20 Seminar: Movie: *Alien* (1979)

Tuesday, Nov 21 WW: Movie: *Alien* (1979)

Nov 22-24: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

Monday, Nov 27 Seminar: Movie: *Aliens* (1986)
Response Paper #10 (Movie Review) Due

Tuesday, Nov 28 WW: Movie - *Aliens* (1986)

Wednesday, Nov 29

Seminar: overflow/exam review

Thursday, Nov 30

CLE: "What's the story, MU/TH/ER?" Humans, Alien(s), and Others
(Ben Stevens)

Friday, Dec 1

WW: Evals/wrap-up

Week 16

Monday, Dec 4

Seminar: Evals, wrap-up

Tuesday, Dec 5

CeLEbration (Fiesta Room)

Exam Week

Tuesday, Dec 12

Seminar Final Exam (12-3pm)