

**First Year Experience: Science Fiction
Fall 2022**

MWF 11:30-12:20

TR 11:20-12:35

Common Learning Experience: Thursday 11:20AM - 12:35PM

The schedules for the Seminar and Writing Workshop sub-sections have been set by your
instructors as follows:

Seminar sub-section	Days & times	Room	Corresponding writing workshop	Days & times	Room
Kenneth Loiselle	MW 11:30	NH 314	Duane Coltharp	TF 11:20/11:30	NH 314
David Crockett	MW 11:30	SML 102	Courtney Salinas	TF 11:20/11:30	SML 102
John Burke	TF 11:20/11:30	SML 114	Courtney Salinas	MW 11:30	SML 114
James Ivy	TF 11:20/11:30	MMS233	Todd Barnett	MW 11:30	MMS 233
Lauren Turek	MW 11:30	CSI 356	Todd Barnett	TF 11:20/11:30	CSI 356

Instructor and Peer Tutor Information:

Instructor	Department	Office	Phone	Office Hours	Peer Tutor
T. Barnett	History	Halsell xxx	x-7621		Maddie Ellis (sec. 35)
T. Barnett	History	Halsell xxx	x-7621		(sec. 36)
J. Burke	Political Science	SML 105C	x-8338	MWF 10:30-11:30, 2:30-3:30, by appt	Alexis Hamilton
D. Coltharp	English	NH 410L	x-8201	By appointment	Blaine Hashmi
D. Crockett	Political Science	SML 105B	x-8344	M 2:30-3:30, W 2:30-4:30, by appt	Loic Rocheleau
J. Ivy	Religion	Halsell 124	x-7811	W 1-4	Lola Lucky
K. Loiselle	History	Halsell xxx	x-8863		Ariel Monsen
C. Salinas	FYE	NH 383			Mason Fraser (sec. 33)
C. Salinas	FYE	NH 383			Genevieve Ellis (sec. 34)
L. Turek	History	Halsell 316	x-7625	M 1-3, by appt	Maddie Ellis

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 will meet together in Northrup 040 for a common learning experience (CLE), 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 with their sections, alternating between writing and seminar instructors.

Texts

1. Orson Scott Card. *Ender's Game*. New York: Tor Books, 1985.
2. Neal Stephenson. *Snow Crash*. New York: Del Rey trade paperback edition, 2017.
3. Ursula K. LeGuin. *The Lathe of Heaven*. New York: Scribner, reprint edition, 2008.
4. Martha Wells. *All Systems Red* and *Artificial Condition*, from *The Murderbot Diaries*. New York: Tom Doherety Associates, 2017 and 2018.

Required short stories are available on the course TLearn site.

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 a persuasive analytical 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.

All essays should be between four to six pages in length, written in an appropriate twelve-point font, double-spaced, and stapled. Please do not use a title page; you may print your papers double-sided. 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 so that we may refer to them.

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 by one of your two peer tutors. 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: Instructors vary in their approaches to the use of laptops, tablet computers, and cell phones in the classroom. For some instructors, such electronic devices are not welcome for use in the classroom, excepting students with special needs and disabilities. For other instructors, such devices are integral to their teaching styles. Individual instructors will provide you with their own policies regarding use of electronic devices in the classroom. All instructors, however, expect students to bring their books to classes—in whatever format. It is generally advisable also to bring to class old-fashioned note-taking equipment: pens, note pads, etc.

Academic Integrity: All students are covered by a policy that prohibits dishonesty in academic work. Under the Honor Code, a faculty member will (or a student may) report an alleged violation to the Academic Honor Council. It is the task of the Council to investigate, adjudicate, and assign a punishment within certain guidelines if a violation has been verified. **Students are required to pledge all written work that is submitted for a grade: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work” and their signature. The pledge may be abbreviated “pledged” with a signature.**

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 (available at: <https://policies.trinity.edu/51f0f504-3c30-4d2a-8a99-8c04d6d11e28.pdf>).

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 THE INSTRUCTOR!

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: 90%

Student participation: 10%

Seminar Sub-Section:

Midterm: 10%

Final: 20%

Ten Small assignments: 50%

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.

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

Dennis Ugolini (Department of Physics and Astronomy)

James Ivy (Department of Religion)

Lauren Turek (Department of History)

Todd Barnett (Department of History)

Shana McDermott (Department of Economics)
Duane Coltharp (Department of English)
Courtney Salinas (FYE)
Kimberlyn Montford (Department of Music)
Heather Sullivan (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures)
Katherine Troyer (Collaborative)
Aaron Delwiche (Department of Communication)
Jim Shinkle (Department of Biology)
Kenneth Loiselle (Department of History)

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Reporting

As a Responsible Employee who is committed to creating an environment where every member of our community can thrive, I want to let you know that I am a Mandatory Reporter. What that means is that I am required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual intercourse, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence, stalking, and related retaliation that I am aware of to the Title IX Coordinator. So, if you share information with me about any incidents that implicate the Sexual Misconduct or Anti-Harassment Policies, I am required to report all information to the Title IX Coordinator to make sure you have information about support resources and complaint resolution options. My report does not initiate the complaint process, and you are in control over how you choose to engage with our Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, I encourage you to share this information directly with the Title IX Coordinator or one of the individuals who has been designated as a confidential resource on campus. Information about reporting is available here: [Reporting](#).

Academic Support

Trinity faculty hold students to the highest academic standards, but we also know that the very best students seek out help when necessary. The following resources are in place to support your academic success:

[Academic Success](#): time management, student skills, test anxiety, note taking, tutoring

[Career Services](#): major exploration, career guidance

[Counseling Services](#): mental health concerns, mental health referrals

[Quantitative Reasoning and Skills Center](#): quantitatively demanding coursework

[Student Accessibility Services](#): accommodations for a diagnosed disability

[Wellness Center](#): nutrition, sleep, stress management

[Writing Center](#): starting a paper, finding a thesis, drafting and editing

Course Calendar and Requirements

- Aug 22: Introductions
- Aug 23: Asimov, “Reason”; Godwin, “Cold Equations”; Bradbury, “There Will Come Soft Rains”
- Aug 24: Asimov, Godwin, & Bradbury
- Aug 25: CLE: Science in Science Fiction (Dennis Ugolini)
- Aug 26: *Ender’s Game*, 31-131, chapters 1-7
- Aug 29: *Ender’s Game*, 31-131, chapters 1-7
- Aug 30: *Ender’s Game*, 132-266, chapters, 8-12
- Aug 31: *Ender’s Game*, 132-266, chapters, 8-12
- Sep 1: CLE: Ideology and the Golden Age of Science Fiction (James Ivy)
- Sep 2: *Ender’s Game*, 267-368, chapters 13-15
- Sep 5: Labor Day
- Sep 6: *Ender’s Game*, 267-368, chapters 13-15
- Sep 7: *Ender’s Game*, 267-368, chapters 13-15
- Sep 8: CLE: *Ender’s Game* and the Long Twilight Struggle (Lauren Turek)
- Sep 9: TV episode: *Star Trek*, “The Devil in the Dark”; *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, “Darmok”
- Sep 12: TV episode: *Star Trek*, “The Devil in the Dark”; *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, “Darmok”
- Sep 13: overflow
- Sep 14: overflow
- Sep 15: CLE: The Impact of Comic Books on Science Fiction (Todd Barnett)
- Sep 16: Hao Jingfang, “Folding Beijing”
- Sep 19: Hao Jingfang, “Folding Beijing”
- Sep 20: *Snow Crash* 1-153, chapters 1-15
- Sep 21: *Snow Crash* 1-153, chapters 1-15
- Sep 22: CLE: Economics, Science Fiction, and “Folding Beijing” (Shana McDermott)
- Sep 23: *Snow Crash* 154-287, chapters 16-31
- Sep 26: *Snow Crash* 154-287, chapters 16-31
- Sep 27: *Snow Crash* 288-412, chapters 32-47
- Sep 28: *Snow Crash* 288-412, chapters 32-47
- Sep 29: CLE: *Snow Crash* and the Politics of Cyberpunk (Duane Coltharp)
- Sep 30: *Snow Crash* 413-559, chapters 48-71

- Oct 3: *Snow Crash* 413-559, chapters 48-71
- Oct 4: overflow
- Oct 5: overflow
- Oct 6: Midterm exam
- Oct 7: *Lathe of Heaven* 1-50, chapters 1-4
- Oct 10: *Lathe of Heaven* 1-50, chapters 1-4
- Oct 11: *Lathe of Heaven* 51-111, chapters 5-7
- Oct 12: *Lathe of Heaven* 51-111, chapters 5-7
- Oct 13: CLE: Dreamer, Prophet, Madman: The Unreliable Narrator and LeGuin's *Lathe of Heaven* (Courtney Salinas)
- Oct 14: Class recess
- Oct 17: *Lathe of Heaven* 112-184, chapters 8-11
- Oct 18: *Lathe of Heaven* 112-184, chapters 8-11
- Oct 19: Radio: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, episodes 1-6 (1978)
- Oct 20: CLE: The Sound of Science... Fiction (Kimberlyn Montford)
- Oct 21: Radio: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, episodes 1-6 (1978)
- Oct 24: *The Murderbot Diaries: All Systems Red*
- Oct 25: *The Murderbot Diaries: All Systems Red*
- Oct 26: *The Murderbot Diaries: All Systems Red/Artificial Condition*
- Oct 27: CLE: The Posthuman (Heather Sullivan)
- Oct 28: *The Murderbot Diaries: Artificial Condition*
- Oct 31: *The Murderbot Diaries: Artificial Condition*
- Nov 1: Movie: *Blade Runner* (1982)
- Nov 2: Movie: *Blade Runner* (1982)
- Nov 3: CLE: Light(years)s, Camera, Action: Film and Sci-Fi (Katherine Troyer)
- Nov 4: Movie: *Ex Machina* (2015)
- Nov 7: Movie: *Ex Machina* (2015)
- Nov 8: Game: Detroit: Become Human
- Nov 9: Game: Detroit: Become Human
- Nov 10: CLE: Gaming the Future (Althea Delwiche)
- Nov 11: overflow

Nov 14: overflow
Nov 15: Tiptree, “Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death”; Le Guin, “Coming of Age in
Karhide”; Butler, “Bloodchild”
Nov 16: Tiptree, Le Guin, & Butler
Nov 17: CLE: The Evolution of Sex (Jim Shinkle)
Nov 18: Movie: *Alien* (1979)

Nov 21-25: Thanksgiving break

Nov 28: Movie: *Alien* (1979)
Nov 29: overflow
Nov 30: overflow
Dec 1: CLE: Science Fiction and the Enlightenment (Kenneth Loiselle)
Dec 2: Evals, wrap-up

Dec 5: Evals, wrap-up
Dec 6: Celebration

Dec 9: Final exam, 12-3pm