



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS  
ENGL 204  
Credit Course  
Fall, 2012

## INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE FICTION

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Andrew Richardson, PhD (Dalhousie), MA (Leeds), BA (Mt. Allison)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment  
**OFFICE:** A2003  
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**DAYS & TIMES:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm  
**LOCATION:** TBD

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to science fiction. Students will analyze, interpret and evaluate novels, short stories and film, and thereby learn the basic structures, themes and characteristics of this vital genre. The course will address, among other topics, representations of scientists and the work they do, the ethics of scientific research, social engineering and dystopia, aliens and Otherness, human dependence on technology, post-apocalyptic visions, and the frontiers of human experience and consciousness.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, student will be able to:

- understand the history of science fiction, its common features and unique sensibilities
- analyze, interpret and evaluate fiction in terms of gender, race, class, cosmology and scientific ethics
- comprehend recurring themes suggested by the selected texts
- present ideas in well-organized, thoughtful and polished essays
- perform postsecondary-level literary research.

### DELIVERY METHODS/FORMAT

ENGL 204 involves lectures, seminar discussions, oral presentations by students and occasional writing responses.

## PREREQUISITES

ENGL 100 and 101 (i.e., six credits of first-year English) or instructor's permission

## EVALUATION

### Assignments

Students in ENGL 204 are responsible for submitting three essays, including a substantial research paper, and doing one in-class oral presentation.

### Examinations

Evaluation in ENGL 204 includes a 1.5-hour midterm exam and a 3-hour final exam.

### Evaluation

#### Writing Assignments:

- Essay 1 10
- Essay 2 15
- Essay 3 (Research) 25

#### In-Class Components:

- Participation 5
- Oral Presentation 10

#### Exams:

- Mid-term 10
- Final 25

TOTAL 100

### Note:

- Writing assignments must be submitted via email, ideally in Microsoft Word (.doc OR .docx) format, by 4:30 pm of the assigned due date. Word files are preferred because assignments are evaluated partly through TrackChanges.
- Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of one third of a letter grade (5%) per day, including weekend days.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

J.G. Ballard. *Crash*. Picador. (ISBN: 0312420331)

Arthur C. Clarke. *2001: A Space Odyssey*. New American Library (ISBN: 0451457994)

Ursula K. Le Guin. *The Left Hand of Darkness*. Ace Books (ISBN: 0441007317)

George Orwell. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Vigo Classics (ISBN: 9780857942418)

Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*. (9780192834874)

Ridley Scott. *Alien*. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox - the film will be screened in stages during class time, with discussion periods (students are encouraged to purchase a copy, through iTunes for example, for reviewing/studying purposes)

Supplemental readings will be available on course reserve in the Yukon College Library or online via the ENGL 204 website via MyYC.

**EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY**

UBC ENGL 2XX (3)                      VIU ENGL 2XX (3)  
 UVIC ENGL 250 (1.5)                UR ENGL 2XX (3)  
 UNBC ENGL 2XX (3)                other transfer agreements pending

**TENTATIVE COURSE ITINERARY**

	Topics	Readings / Viewings
Weeks 1 & 2	Introductions The History of SF: Frontier Explorations What is SF?	outline & assignments Readings TBD
Weeks 3 & 4	Representing Scientists Science & Ethics The Machine & the Monster	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Weeks 5 & 6	Social Engineering & Dystopia Totalitarianism & Technologies of Control Post-Apocalyptic Narratives	<i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>
Weeks 7 & 8	Time, Tech & Consciousness Alien & Otherness The Machine & the Monster	<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>
Weeks 9 & 10	Aliens & Otherness The Body & Gender	<i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i>
Weeks 11 & 12	The Body & Technology Science & Pornography Mediated Experience	<i>Crash</i>
Weeks 13 & 14	Aliens & Otherness The Body & Gender The Machine & the Monster  Final Exam	<i>Alien</i>