

Skyline College
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** LIT. 156 **TITLE:** Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ENGL 105, or equivalent.

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

Study of representative works from the genres of Science Fiction and Fantasy, examining their roots, twentieth-century rise, and contemporary status. Includes analysis of primary sources and literary criticism as well as how the genres interact with mythology, philosophy, mass media, and popular culture. Transfer credit: CSU.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. **ESSAYS AND SOURCES:** Write analytical, unified, text-based essays about works of Science Fiction and Fantasy using the conventions of literary analysis and criticism, and effectively integrating and documenting sources according to MLA guidelines.
2. **LITERARY ANALYSIS:** Describe and analyze major themes and literary techniques of a broad range of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of works of Science Fiction and Fantasy.
2. Identify and evaluate the unstated premises and hidden assumptions in public discourse, including the social, historical, cultural, psychological, and/or gender-based contexts of works of Science Fiction and Fantasy.
3. Introduce sound inferences from works of Science Fiction and Fantasy given in a variety of forms.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of the issues raised in works of Science Fiction and Fantasy to the present, using self-evaluation exercises to increase awareness of one's own thinking and learning processes.
5. Identify and analyze conventions of the various genres of Science Fiction and Fantasy, distinguishing between and using both denotative and connotative aspects of language.
6. Explain how these elements inform the meanings of the text.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

The course should include the following topics (but is not limited to):

1. A general historical review of the intellectual and cultural ideas which have influenced and formed science fiction and fantasy
2. A study of major trends in fiction, poetry, and drama through a selection of representative works of science fiction and fantasy
3. The common literary and unique literary themes and techniques of various works of science fiction and fantasy
4. An exploration of the qualities particular to science fiction and fantasy

The course will include an in-depth analysis of at least one of the following sub-genres:

1. Novels: At least two works in depth and others for discussion
 - A. Historical/cultural backgrounds
 - B. Sources
 - C. Themes, characters, settings, plot structures, dramatic conventions
2. Short Stories: at least one work in depth and others for discussion
 - A. Historical/cultural backgrounds

- B. Sources
- C. Themes, characters, settings, plot structures, dramatic conventions
- 3. Dramas: at least one work in depth and others for discussion
 - A. Historical/cultural backgrounds
 - B. Sources
 - C. Themes, characters, settings, plot structures, dramatic conventions
- 4. Poetry: at least one work in depth and others for discussion
 - A. Historical/cultural backgrounds
 - B. Sources
 - C. Themes, characters, settings, plot structures, dramatic conventions
- 5. Other: At least one work in depth and others for discussion
 - A. Films
 - B. Paintings
 - C. Unique forms of literary value that are important to other countries

This course can cover 4-6 works, such as the following:

1. Genre Foundations:
 - A. *Völsunga saga*
 - B. *The Nibelungenlied*
 - C. *Beowulf*
 - D. *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
 - E. *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells
2. The Gothic:
 - A. *Castle of Otranto*, Horace Walpole
 - B. *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, Ann Radcliffe
 - C. *The Monk*, Matthew Gregory Lewis
3. Utopias and Dystopias:
 - A. *Herland*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 - B. *The Man In the High Castle*, Philip K. Dick
 - C. *The Female Man*, Joanna Russ
4. The Neo-Gothic to Modern Fantasy:
 - A. *The Beetle*, Richard Marsh
 - B. *Dracula*, Bram Stoker
 - C. *The Wood Beyond the World*, William Morris
 - D. "At the Mountains of Madness," H.P. Lovecraft
5. Robots:
 - A. *I, Robot*, Isaac Asimov
 - B. *Alien* (film)
 - C. "Who Goes There," John W. Campbell
 - D. *Lilith's Brood*, Octavia Butler
6. High Fantasy:
 - A. *The Worm Ouroboros*, E. R. Eddison
 - B. *The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkien
 - C. *Titus Groan*, Mervyn Peake
7. Space Travel:
 - A. *Triplanetary*, E.E. "Doc" Smith
 - B. *Downbelow Station*, C.J. Cherryh
 - C. *The Sparrow*, Mary Doria Russell
8. Postmodern Fantasy:
 - A. *Elric of Melniboné Saga*, Michael Moorcock
 - B. *Deryni Rising*, Katherine Kurtz
 - C. *Anansi Boys*, Neil Gaiman
 - D. *Last Call*, Tim Powers
9. Science Fiction as Political Philosophy:
 - A. *Orlando*, Virginia Woolf
 - B. *Stranger In A Strange Land*, Robert Heinlein
 - C. *Dhalgren*, Samuel Delany
 - D. *The Dispossessed*, Ursula Le Guin

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Activity
- C. Discussion
- D. Other (Specify): Lecture, small/large group discussion, guided readings, library and online research, field trips to live performances as appropriate, and films.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

- Academic writing totaling 2,500 words (approximately 10 pages) will demonstrate understanding of the materials and independent analytical responses supported by references to the texts.
- Written responses to questions on course content (readings, videos, films, lectures, etc.)
- Reading journals
- Critical essays
- In-class spontaneous writing
- Timed expository writing
- Quizzes

Reading Assignments:

Selected works appropriate to the course, such as novels, short stories, plays, poetry, and critical theory.

Other Outside Assignments:

- Demonstration/modeling
- Collaborative/individual projects
- Oral/written presentations of individual or collaborative research on relevant subjects

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Field Trips
- E. Group Projects
- F. Homework
- G. Oral Presentation
- H. Papers
- I. Portfolios
- J. Projects
- K. Quizzes
- L. Research Projects
- M. Written examination

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Imarisha, Walidah, ed. *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements*, ed. AK Press, 2015
- B. Liu, Marjorie. *Monstress*, ed. Image Comics, 2015
- C. Ellison, Harlan. *Dangerous Visions*, ed. Gateway, 2012
- D. Dick, Philip K. *The Man in the High Castle*, ed. Mariner Books, 2012
- E. VanderMeer, Jeff, ed. *The Big Book of Science Fiction*, ed. Vintage, 2016
- F. Ozeki, Ruth. *A Tale for the Time Being*, ed. Penguin Books, 2013
- G. Older, Daniel José. *Shadowshaper*, ed. Scholastic Inc., 2016
- H. Roh, David S., ed. *Techno-Orientalism: Imagining Asia in Speculative Fiction, History, and Media*, ed. Rutgers University Press, 2015

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Course Originator: LizaMarie Erpelo