

ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Course Syllabus

Division: Humanities and Fine Arts
Course: LIT 2023—Science Fiction

Date:	September 14, 2001
Semester Hours:	3.0
Lecture hours per week:	3.0
Lab hours per week:	0
Seminar hours per week:	0
Other hours:	0
Prerequisite:	English 1001, 1002
Semester Offered:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Instructor:	English Faculty

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A study of a major type of “popular literature”, the course closely investigates the creation of futuristic fiction. This course explores not only the development of various types of science fiction literature and the language itself, but also how the literature contributes to the western literary tradition. Science fiction is that branch of literature that deals with the human response to changes in the level of science and technology.

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND RELATED COMPETENCIES:

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

Outcome 1. Understand and appreciate the themes and concerns of the changes and developments of science fiction and its relation to the mainstream of modern literature.

Competency 1.1: Explain major themes and concerns of science fiction literature.

Competency 1.2: Identify major themes in specific works of literature.

Competency 1.3: Explain how major themes are presented and developed through the specific details of a text.

Competency 1.4: Explain the relevance and relation of major themes to the literary, social, historical, and philosophical forces that influence the production and reading of literature.

Competency 1.5: Identify a variety of literary genres and explain common characteristics of the science fiction genre.

Outcome 2. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of literary elements and conventions and the ways that writers convey meaning through these elements and conventions.

Competency 2.1: Define elements of literature relevant to texts studied in the course (such as narration, metaphor, symbol, and irony).

Competency 2.2: Identify elements in literature in specific texts and explain the meaning and significance of these literary elements (such as narration, metaphor, symbol, and irony).

Competency 2.3: Demonstrate an ability to explain how the specific elements of a literary text relate to the larger meaning of the text.

Competency 2.4: Demonstrate the ability to formulate and develop original interpretations of literary texts supported by the specific elements and conventions of the texts.

Outcome 3: Understand how literary, social, historical, and philosophical forces influence the production and reading of literature.

Competency 3.1: Identify and summarize literary forces that influence literature And explain how these forces are relevant to specific literary texts.

Competency 3.2: Identify and summarize social forces that influence literature And explain how these forces are relevant to specific literary texts.

Competency 3.3: Identify and summarize historical forces that influence literature And explain how these forces are relevant to specific literary texts.

Competency 3.4: Identify and summarize philosophical forces that influence literature and explain how these forces are relevant to specific literary texts.

Outcome 4: Appreciate the significant impact that literature makes upon the literary, social, historical, and philosophical development of society.

Competency 4.1: Demonstrate an understanding of continuing literary traditions, the changes within those traditions, and the ways in which specific literary texts and writers contribute to the traditions and changes.

Competency 4.2: Demonstrate an understanding of the social milieu of specific literary texts and writers and the impact of those texts and writers on that milieu.

Competency 4.3: Demonstrate an understanding of the impact that specific literary texts and writers have upon the historical environment and development of society.

Competency 4.4: Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical ideas presented in specific literary texts and the impact of those ideas upon the philosophical development of society.

Outcome 5: Become familiar with various critical approaches to literature and understand how various critical approaches enhance the ability to analyze and interpret literature.

Competency 5.1: Demonstrate a familiarity and understanding of various critical approaches to literature (such as formalist, historical, biographical, feminist, etc.).

Competency 5.2: Identify and explain a specific critical approach or approaches that are used in a critical commentary on a text.

Competency 5.3: Demonstrate an ability to analyze a text with various critical approaches.

Competency 5.4: Demonstrate an understanding of how and why various critical approaches lead to different but valid interpretations of the same text.

Outcome 6: Continue to develop the ability to write thoughtful, well-written college-level essays that respond to and analyze literary works.

Competency 6.1: Formulate and develop a thesis appropriate for specific writing assignments.

Competency 6.2: Conduct significant research relevant to specific assignments.

Competency 6.3: Develop the ability to recognize and judge the credibility of secondary sources.

Competency 6.4: Use material both from primary sources and secondary sources to develop and support interpretations of literary texts.

Competency 6.5: Demonstrate the ability to formulate, support, and develop original interpretations of literary texts.

Competency 6.6: Express ideas in writing characterized by full development, clear organization, appropriate sense of audience, correct MLA citation and documentation of sources, and adherence to rules of English syntax, grammar, and mechanics.

III. COURSE CONTENT:

1. Assigned readings from literary texts drawn from the works of representative writers from the science fiction genre including both the novel and short story. Major representative writers and their works should be covered in the course with recognition of the diversity of literature and writers from the genre of science fiction. Material may be covered chronologically, thematically, or structurally.
2. Lectures, discussions, or other assignments that pertain to the literary texts and Writers covered in the course.
3. Lectures, discussion, or other assignments on the literary, social, historical, and philosophical context that pertain to the literary texts and writers covered in the course.
4. Appropriate secondary material on writers, literary works, or literary, social, historical, and philosophical context.

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:

1. Lectures and discussions
2. Group work
3. In-class and out-of class writing assignments
4. Research paper or papers
5. Assigned readings
6. Student conferences (at the instructor's discretion)
7. Guest presenters
8. Audio/visual presentations
9. Quizzes (at the instructor's discretion)
10. Exams (at the instructor's discretion)
11. Electronic presentations (PowerPoint, etc.)
12. CD ROM and other software

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Textbooks

Textbooks used in Science Fiction Literature are at the instructor's discretion

Instructors may use an appropriate anthology, individual texts covering the appropriate course material, or an anthology supplemented by individual texts.

An anthology such as the following, but not limited to the following, is appropriate for the course:

LeGuin, Ursula, and Brian Attebery, gen. Ed. The Norton Book of Science Fiction. New York: Norton, 1993.

Handbooks to aid students in the writing of essays for the course may also be assigned at the instructor's discretion.

Other

Black/Whiteboard

TV/VCR

Slide projector and slide

Videos

Overhead projector and transparencies

Photocopies of instructional materials

Computers/SMART classrooms

Internet and World Wide Web resources

Presentation Programs (i.e., Powerpoint)

CD ROM and other software

Electronic databases

VI. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Students must read assigned reading from primary and secondary sources.
2. Students must submit assigned exams, quizzes, and other assignments.
3. Students must submit a formal paper or papers of at least fifteen pages.
4. Students may give oral presentations (either individual or group).
5. Students must attend and participate in class lectures and discussions.

Evaluation

Evaluation of quizzes, exams, and other assignments is at the instructor's discretion but must reflect how effectively students demonstrate the course competencies listed above.

Formal written work is evaluated according the English faculty policies on format, grading, and plagiarism, which are published in the Humanities and Fine Arts Division's student Style Book.

The grading scale is at the discretion of the instructor.