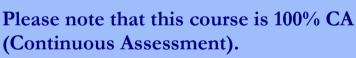
HL311 / HL3011

Science Fiction: Origins to Parody

Tracing its origins from nineteenth-century writing on the possibilities and threats of technology and the newly established sciences to its genre reconstruction and intertextual revisiting over the centuries, the analysis of its most prominent as well as of recently rediscovered works aims to illustrate how science fiction has transformed literature and film. In this, it also seeks to map the genre's most defining topoi: travel through space, time, and parallel universes; experimental technology; alien life; testing the boundaries of the mind and manipulating the body (cloning). Science fiction has always been experimental in its technique as well as in its criticism of social, psychological, and scientific definitions of selfhood, and its study taps into encompassing explorations of epistemological as well as ontological anxieties.

This course specifically addresses genre formation. We shall be looking at a number of different texts, and students will need to

read beyond the "core texts."



Group Presentation: 20% Research paper: 50% Participation in class: 10% In-class writing tasks: 20%

Core Texts:

Please note that the presentations will be on texts outside the "core texts."

Novels:

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein H.G. Wells, The Time Machine

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Short Stories:

Brian Aldiss, "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long"

http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/5.01/ffsupertoys pr.html

Films and Television Episodes (available in the Media Resource Library): *The Bride of Frankenstein*

"The City on the Edge of Forever" (A Star Trek: The Original Series Episode)
Galaxy Quest
The Time Machine

Lecture Schedule

Week No.	Topics	Readings
	Introduction	Outline: Structure &
11 Aug		Requirements
18 Aug	Making Men and Monsters	Frankenstein
25 Aug	Union Day	
1 Sep	The Evolution of Science Fiction I	Frankenstein
8 Sep	The Evolution of Science Fiction II	The Time Machine
15 Sept	Dystopia: Projecting Human Growth	The Time Machine
22 Sept	A.I.	"Super-Toys Last All
		Summer Long"
29 Sept	Recess	
6 Oct	Time Travel	"The City on the Edge of Forever"
13 Oct	Presentations	
20 Oct	Presentations	
27 Oct	Extending the Boundaries of Science Fiction: Parody	Galaxy Quest
3 Nov	Revision: Q&A	