

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 2071F/001 -- 2014

**SPECULATIVE FICTION: SCIENCE FICTION**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. JOHN KELLY** -- jkelly1@uwo.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The science fiction course explores a selection of science fiction short stories and novels by focusing on the author's imaginative recreation of the human world. The course focuses upon critical science fiction themes such as the creation of artificial intelligence, the reconstruction of a conventional social and political order, the breakdown of traditional gender definitions, alien encounters, and explorations of otherness.

**ANTIREQUISITES:**

Please note that English 134E AND 171F are antirequisites to this course; hence, if you have taken English 134E or 171F, you cannot receive credit for English 2071F/G.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Write an essay about a work of literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text.
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- William Gibson, Neuromancer.
- Ursula Le Guin, The Left Hand of Darkness.
- Ursula Le Guin and Brian Attebery, eds. The Norton Book of Science Fiction.
- Haldeman, Joe, Forever Peace.
- Walter E. Miller Jr., Canticle for Lebowitz.
- Marge Piercy, He, She, and It.
- Mary Shelley, Frankenstein.
- H. G. Wells, The Time Machine and War of the Worlds.
- Yevgeny Zamyatin, We.

**EVALUATION:**

- Learning Cell -- on Zamyatin's *We* = 15%
- Midterm Exam -- In Class Essay = 10%
- Critical Paragraph -- on Haldeman's *Forever Peace* = 10%
- Essay (6 pages -- 1500 words) = 30%
- Final Exam = 35%

The Department of English policy stipulates that in order for students to achieve a passing grade for the course they **must pass both the term work and the final examination**.

**Late papers will be penalized one point per day.**

**PLAGIARISM**

There is **ZERO** tolerance for plagiarism in this course.

Please read the official University of Western Ontario notice below. A first offence will result in a mark of **zero** on the assignment, and the Department of English as well as your Faculty will be notified (this is the minimum penalty); a second, or very blatant, offence will result in **failure** of the course and debarment from all further Department of English courses. The Department of English also takes seriously internal plagiarism; you should be aware that the department keeps a database of all internet essay sites. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor or the English Undergraduate Office.

**Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).**

**Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.**

**Academic accommodation:**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

The full policy is set out at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.