

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Science Fiction Literature**  
**Victory Culture to the Walking Dead – Postwar American Science Fiction**  
**English 3667F (001)**  
Fall 2016

**Instructor:** John Kelly – [jkelly1@uwo.ca](mailto:jkelly1@uwo.ca)

**Date/Time:** Monday 3:30pm-4:30pm,  
Wednesday 2:30pm-4:30pm

**Location:** Arts & Humanities Building 2R21

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both of English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course examines American science fiction literature from the period of the Golden Age of science fiction in the 1940s and 50s to the post-human and post-apocalyptic scenarios of recent science fiction. The readings range from Issac Asimov's *The End of Eternity* to *Days Gone Bye*, the first volume of Robert Kirkman and Tony Moore's comic series *The Walking Dead*. Supplementing the readings will be excerpts from movies like *Terminator* and television shows like *Battlestar Galactica*. The course examines sub-genres of science fiction like atom-punk, cyber-punk, and bio-punk and American science fiction in the context of the Cold War, globalization, environmentalism, post-apocalyptic narratives, and a post-human future.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Think critically about American Science Fiction literature and American culture, and understand the historical and literary contexts of works;
- Participate in Learning Cell assignment and class discussions;
- Develop further the ability to analyze texts critically, and to formulate and produce essays which have a clear, well-articulated intent, and a logical argument supported by adequate evidence from the text(s) under discussion.

Course Materials

- Isaac Asimov, *The End of Eternity*
- Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower*
- Philip K. Dick, *Dr. Bloodmoney*
- Thomas Disch, 334
- Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Windup Girl*
- William Gibson, *Neuromancer*.
- Robert Heinlein, *Starship Troopers*
- Robert Kirkman and Tony Moore, *Days Gone Bye* (Vol. 1. *The Walking Dead*)
- Ursula Le Guin, *The Dispossessed*
- Joanna Russ, *The FeMale maN*
- Kim Stanley Robinson, *Forty Signs of Rain*

### Methods of Evaluation

-- Learning Cell -- on Heinlein's <i>Starship Troopers</i>	10%
-- Video Game or Creative Assignment	20%
-- Critical Assessment – on an episode of <i>Dollhouse</i>	10%
-- Essay (8 pages)	25%
-- Final Exam	35%

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

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

### **Course Work and Exam:**

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

### Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 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 UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

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

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

**Support Services**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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