

**Western University  
Science Fiction Literature  
English 2071 (001)  
Winter 2025**

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

**Office Hours:** Zoom Friday. 1:00 to 2:00 or make an appointment.

**ANTIREQUISITES:**

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

**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.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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

- Think critically about science fiction literature and culture, and understand the historical and literary contexts of works.
- Be able to distinguish between periods, movements, and styles of science fiction literature.
- Write an essay about a work of literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text and documented following the Modern Language Association method.
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

- William Gibson, *Neuromancer*.
- Ursula Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*.
- Haldeman, Joe, *Forever Peace*.
- Walter M. Miller, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*.
- Marge Piercy, *He, She, and It*.
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*.
- H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine and War of the Worlds*.
- Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*.
- The short stories required for the class can be accessed via Ares, King's Library, via tab on the course OWL site.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

- Learning Cell -- on Zamyatin's *We* (2 pages – 500 words) = 20%
- Midterm Essay – (4 pages -- 1000 words) = 20%
- Essay (5 pages – 1250) = 25%
- Final Exam = 35%

**Deadline for dropping winter course March. 7.**

**Late papers will be penalized one point per day. All assignments will be submitted electronically to the OWL course site.**

#### 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.

