

**English 1028G (001):
The Storyteller's Art II: The Rise of the Machines**

Department of English & Writing Studies
Western University
Winter 2018

Tutorial 007: Thursday 10:30-11:30, AHB 1B02
Tutorial 008: Thursday 11:30-12:30, SH 3307
Email: cezenwa2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBA, IGAB 0N06

Maral Moradipour
Tutorial 009: Thursday 12:30-1:30, SH 3307
Tutorial 010: Wednesday 12:30-1:30, P&AB 36
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Office Hours: TBA, AHB 2G28L

Andreea Perescu
Tutorial 003: Thursday 12:30- 1:30, TC 201
Tutorial 004: Thursday 11:30- 12:30, AHB 2R21
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Jordan Pynn
Tutorial 006: Thursday 10:30- 11:30, SH 3307
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Course Description

Where do I end and my phone (or laptop or tablet) Creature to the digital assistant of Spike Jonze's film *Her*, our technological prostheses have always been more than simply tools for carrying out the tasks that we have assigned them. They have been, too, the instruments by which we have sought to define what it means to be human in a world in which our microprocessor-driven devices seem to have acquired a mysterious agency, a *liveliness* all of their own. This course will study novels, short stories, and a feature film that have sought to explore the social, political, and psychological dimensions of our increasingly intimate relationship with the technological realm. What fears and desires do these new life forms elicit in us? How do they compel us to think differently about what it means to work, think, love? And where, in the future, will we draw the line between what we want from them and what they might want from us?

The weekly course schedule consists of two hours of lecture and a third hour of tutorial discussion facilitated by a teaching assistant. In addition to providing opportunities for the discussion of reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

Learning Outcomes

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Identify and analyze basic elements of narrative literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, and tone.
- Write an essay about a work of narrative literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Research critical commentary on literary works;
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet;
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Document essays using MLA format.

Required Texts

(Available in the English section at the Campus Bookstore in the University Community Centre)

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot* (Macmillan)

Capek, Karel. *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)* (Penguin)

Casson, Leslie E. *A Writer's Handbook*. Third Ed. (Broadview)

Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (Del Rey)

Gibson, William. *Neuromancer* (Ace)

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein* (Broadview)

Assignments and Grade Distributions

Four Quizzes: Best Three (3.33% each): 10%

Passage Analysis (1000 words): 15%

Essay (2500 words): 30%

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Final Exam: 35%

Note: Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

Quizzes

Four short quizzes will be conducted during the lecture hours on randomly selected dates. Each quiz will be made up of five questions testing your comprehension of the assigned texts and recent lecture materials. Of these four quizzes, we will choose the best three (each worth 3.33%), to count toward your final grade, for a total of 10%.

Passage Analysis

In addition to lectures, all students will be assigned to a tutorial group of fifteen to twenty students, facilitated by a Teaching Assistant. These tutorial groups are, in many ways, the heart and soul of a large lecture course such as English 1028G, affording students opportunities to raise questions and pursue issues introduced in the weekly lectures, and to share their insights with their fellow students. The tutorial groups will also provide a venue for instruction regarding researching, organizing, and writing an effective, university-level research essay, complete with secondary criticism and a list of works cited.

The Attendance and Participation grade will be divided between attendance (5%) and participation (5%). Participation means arriving for your tutorial on time, having read the assigned materials, and regularly volunteering informed, thoughtful, and helpful replies to questions and/or leading group discussions, as arranged by the Teaching Assistant.

In order for the

Academic Accommodation Policy

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling 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 nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found [here](#).

The full policy is set out [here](#).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [MentalHealth@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 both by using quotation

15	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i>
20	Reading Week
22	Reading Week

February	27	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i>
March	1	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
	6	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
	8	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
	13	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
	15	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	20	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	22	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	27	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	29	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> Research Essay Due
April	3	Jonze, <i>Her</i>
	5	Jonze, <i>Her</i>