

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2071G (001)
Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction
Winter 2024Course Description

Jordan Peele's *NOPE* tackle questions about the body, personhood, exploration/colonization, exploitation, consumption, the climate, and the future.

Objectives:

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

- recognize and identify science fiction's changing forms and social critiques in various historical, geographical, political, and cultural contexts;
- appropriately use and analyze genre-specific terminology, narrative devices, plot structures, themes, and motifs in science fiction novels, novellas, short stories, television, and film;
- conduct a close-reading of texts to bring attention to and comment on their important structural, rhetorical, historical, cultural, and critical elements;
- participate in thought-provoking, scholarly discussions about difficult topics with respect, nuance, and empathy;
- evaluate and incorporate well-researched secondary sources into a research essay to support an essay's argument;
- frame a research question, respond constructively to comments, and produce formal essays that have a clear, persuasive, and well-argued thesis supported by appropriate textual evidence.

Course Materials

All texts below are required:

Shelley, Mary.

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Carl, Rebecca.

Bazterrica, Agustina. Tender is the Flesh. Translated by Sara Moses. Scribner, 2020.

Additional course readings available on OWL.

Films for this course are available through [Western Libraries' Audio-Cine Films](#)

portal at no additional cost or subscription to students.

Class Content

Science fiction engages with difficult topics that some students may find disturbing, upsetting, and/or triggering. Topics and materials discussed in this class include (but are not limited to) mentions, depictions, scenes of, and conversations about: discrimination (racism, sexism, homo-/transphobia, classism, ableism); abuse and assault (physical, mental, emotional, sexual); self-

harm and/or suicide, death, and dying; substance use; animal cruelty/death; and cannibalism. Students are encouraged to take the necessary steps for their emotional safety, which may include asking about a particular text/topics ahead of time, leaving class during a discussion/lecture, or speaking with someone at Support Services. Students who choose to sit out on the discussion of a particular topic are responsible for the material they miss; please arrange to get notes from another student or arrange to meet with me individually.

Confronting these topics and themes requires all of us to work together to ensure our classroom is a space for open, critical, and civil exchange of ideas. Discussions can be critical, honest, and intellectual, while also being sensitive, respectful, and empathetic to the experiences and positions of others.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

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| Academic Integrity tutorial (certificate submission due January 19) | Pass/Fail |
| Attendance & Participation | 5% |
| Reading Quizzes (best 5/8) | 10% |
| Essay #1 (Due February 15 @ 11:55PM; 5 pages, double-spaced) | 20% |
| Essay #2 (Due April 4 @ 11:55PM; 7-8 pages, double-spaced) | 30% |
| Final Exam (Date TBD) | 35% |

NOTE: All course assignments will be handed in via the Assignments tab on OWL. Assignments should adhere to the 9th edition of the MLA Manual of Style.

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/Student%20Information.html>.

Participation

There are many ways students can participate in this course: asking clarifying questions, answering a question posed to the class, making meaningful connections between texts and/or ideas shared in class, being an active member in group activities, actively listening while others are speaking, emailing questions/ideas you might have before class, or arranging to chat during

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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Ins:

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| Tues. Feb. 27 | Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" | |
| Thurs. Feb. 29 | Stanley G. Weinbaum, "A Martian Odyssey" Alette de Bodard, "Immersion" | |
| Tues. Mar. 5 | Mamoru Oshii, <i>Ghost in the Shell</i> | |
| Thurs. Mar. 7 | Ray Bradbury, "A Sound of Thunder" | |
| Tues. Mar. 12 | Rebecca Campbell, <i>Arboreality</i> | |
| Thurs. Mar. 14 | Campbell, <i>Arboreality</i> | |
| Tues. Mar. 19 | Jordan Peele, <i>NOPE</i> | |
| Thurs. Mar. 21 | Arthur C. Clarke, "History Lesson" | |
| Tues. Mar. 26 | Agustina Bazterrica, <i>Tender is the Flesh</i> | |
| Thurs. Mar. 28 | Bazterrica, <i>Tender is the Flesh</i> | |
| Tues. Apr. 2 | Bazterrica, <i>Tender is the Flesh</i> | |
| Thurs. Apr. 4 | Bazterrica, <i>Tender is the Flesh</i> | |
| | Exam Review | |
| | Essay #2 Due | |

Apr. TBD

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