Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2071F (650)
Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction
Fall 2024

Instructor : Prof. Alyssa MacLean

Course Time: Asynchronous online class (no scheduled class period) .

Course Description
Science fiction is a speculative art form that deals with new technologies, faraway worlds, and disruptions in the possibilities of the world as we know it. However, it is also very much a product of its time—a literature of social criticism that is anchored in a specific social and historical context. This course will introduce students to the narrative conventions and tropes of

x Communicate ideas clearly and succinctly in discussion boards and literary analysis essays. This course will focus especially on the development of effective written communication skills. Students will learn to answer an essay question, analyze literary texts independently, and produce formal essays that have a clear, persuasive, well-argued thesis supported by appropriate textual evidence.

x Demonstrate academic integrity in all research processes—i.e. show an understanding of how new knowledge is created in the discipline, cite sources ethically and transparently, acknowledge the ideas that are theirs and not theirs, and make that difference clear to their readers.

Course Materials

Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein; Or, the Modern Prometheus. 3rd ed. Ed. D. L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf. Broadview, 2012. 978-1554811038 [n.b. please buy this edition of this text; any other edition based on the 1818 version of the text would be acceptable.]

H. G. Wells, The Time Machine and War of the Worlds. Del Rey, 1968. 978-0449300435

Ursula K. Le Guin, The Left Hand of Darkness. Ace, 2010.

Cherie Dimaline, The Marrow Thieves. Dancing Cat, 2017.

William Gibson, Neuromancer. Ace, 1986.

Villeneuve, Denis. Arrival. 2016. [N.B. this is available on the Criterion on Demand database via the UWO library website.]

Lavalle, Victor. Victor Lavalle's Destroyer. Illustrated by Dietrich Smith with Joana Lafuente. BOOM! Studios, 978-68415-055-7.

Additional course readings will be posted on OWL under "Course Readings."

Methods of Evaluation

Academic Integrity tutorial on OWL (certificate submission required)   pass/fail

Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

OWL Brightspace : Students are responsible for checking the course site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students may access the OWL Brightspace Learner Support site for assistance: https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/

For IT related issues, they may contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk directly: https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/.

Technical requirements : This course requires you to have a reliable high-speed internet connection and a computer that meets the technical requirements for writing online timed assessments.

Electronic devices in the final exam : The only aids permitted in the final exam will be paper translation dictionaries. All other aids (calculators, electronic translation dictionaries, cell phones, smart watches, etc.) are not permitted.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence : Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unacknowledged use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT and Google Translate, to create content that is submitted as one's own. In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, ChatGPT…) is prohibited. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines , and other materials used in preparing assignments . Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible, ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking and independent inquiry, and allows them to produce original written contributions.

Intellectual Property/Copyright : All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Contact information : The class TAs and I will normally respond to emails within 48 hours. We would be happy to meet with you in office hours to discuss your ideas.

Office hours : We will be holding online office hours this semester mostly via Zoom. Prof. MacLean will be holding office hours in her office, with the ability to hold them on Zoom from there. Panteleimon, Melanie, and Samantha will be holding their regularly-

There are 2 essays due for this class: one short essay (5 pages) and a research paper (8 pages). Papers in English should be written in MLA format; this method of documentation is described in the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 9th ed, which is available as a digital download on the university's library website: https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991045045545305163 . It's also available for purchase at the bookstore. The OWL at Purdue website also has an abbreviated guide to MLA guidelines at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

Further details of these papers will be announced later in the course. I encourage you to discuss your papers with us in office-hours as you work on them.

Academic Integrity and AI Use

We (i.e. students in this course, Professor MacLean, the Department of English and Writing Studies, Western University, and the scholarly community at large) share an understanding of the ethical ways that we use to produce knowledge. A core practice of this shared value of academic integrity is that we acknowledge the contributions of others to our own work. However, it also means we produce our own contributions that add to the scholarly conversation: we don't buy or copy papers or exams, or have someone else edit them, or rely on AI to create them. We also don't falsify data or sources, or hand in the same work in more than one course.

One of the learning outcomes of this course is to cultivate a clear sense of what academic integrity is: what academic integritycD Td ( )Tj EMC B0s,906 (ea)10.6r( )Tj EMC 10.5 (i)1.emi d hanri(y)82229

Accommodation Policies

Western's Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf.
In the case of mid-term tests, notification is to be "given in writing to the instructor as early as possible, but not later than one week prior to the writing of the test."

Academic Accommodation is "a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program."
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Accessible Education   at the earliest opportunity. Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students.
http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Support Services

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:
https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (