

2170B: Afrofuturism

The University of Western Ontario London, Ontario, Canada

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

The department would like to recognize that we are located on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples.

Course description:

Coined in 1994 by Mark Dery, the term Afrofuturism refers to a Black aesthetic centred around imagining futures for Black people. Students will encounter Black writers, musicians, artists, and filmmakers, such as, but not limited to, Nnedi Okorafor, Sun Ra, Janelle Monae, Jordan Peele, Lina Iris Viktor and Atauliê whose work envisages Black futures.

Information (see OWL):

Instructor: Katrina Younes

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Course Objectives:

Develop and hone your understanding of Black literary, artistic, and other history.

Develop an understanding of the concept of Afrofuturism as well as its implications in its uses in Black creative and other expressions.

January 11th Course introduction

- Assignments overview
- Presentation sign-up [you can present in groups of two, but you will receive the same grade]
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IIgF0M7iYhUYy3xt8m80rV5Wahf17WuoNoHfXJT_fPo/edit?usp=sharing

January 18th Introduction to/origins of Afrofuturism

- **Presentation:**
- Mark Dery,
- Ytasha L. Womack, excerpts from *Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture*

January 25

- <https://pointzeroworld.com/2020/09/07/afrofuturist-visual-artists-shaking-today-art-world/>
- Jean-Michel Basquiat