

**Carleton University
Winter 2022
Department of English**

ENGL 1200A

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & LITERATURE:
THE BORN AND THE MADE**

**Prerequisites: None
Precludes additional credit for:
ENGL 1000, 1100, 1300, 1400, 1600, 1700
and FYSM 1004**

**M/W 8:35-9:55am
Format: Online Blended
Instructor: Dr. Chris Eaket**

**Email: ChristopherEaket@cunet.carleton.ca
(Note: Please include ENGL 1200 in the subject line of all emails)
Office Hours: Wed 10:00-11:30 or by request.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class uses fiction as a means of examining the psychological, social, and ethical implications of human beings' ability to create. Our creations can take many forms: everything from art, literature, and specialized tools, to engineered organisms and artificial life. Why do we create? How do our creations mirror ourselves and the priorities of our culture? How do the things that we make change us? What responsibility do we owe to the created, and to the society at large? And finally, what ethical limits should we set on what can be developed, modified, or engineered over time?

The class begins with ur-myths like Prometheus, *Frankenstein* and *The Golem* in order to understand how our culture deals with acts of creation, typically issuing warnings about the misuse of this power. We then look at what is at stake in these acts by looking at novels, films, graphic novels, and short stories. Themes across the course include discussions about art, representation, smart environments, bioengineering, green technologies, and artificial intelligence. This is a blended class, which meets once-a-week online synchronously (usually Wed) and has the other day devoted to asynchronous mini-lectures, video content, reading, and study (usually Mon). See the class schedule for more details.

RULES OF THE ROAD

- Be prepared and ready to engage with the materials. It really does make things more fruitful and insightful for everyone.
- Turn off all things that buzz, beep, or ping. Really.
- No texting in class. If you need to take a brief glance at alerts, fine. But in general, phones face down or in pockets.
- You're welcome to bring your computer to class to take notes. Try to avoid the temptation to multitask -- be attentive to the discussion at hand. Concentrated attention is different than surfing and multitasking.
- No one in this class is stupid. Ever. University requires thinking in different ways and that can take time. Just because someone hasn't acquired a skill yet or a mode of thinking yet doesn't mean they're any better or worse than anyone else. Everyone has a unique skillset & set of contributions to make. Patience. Empathy. Everyone is a knowledge resource for everyone else.
- Be respectful of others with your presence, time, and attention.
- Get to know the ins & outs of the library. Online resources are great, but there's no substitute for the book and resource people there.
- Discrimination or disrespect of any type will not be tolerated. Full stop.
- Feel free to bring your own experiences, scholarship, and interests to bear on the work at hand. The more invested you are in it, the more interesting the end product will tend to be. Chances are others will have had similar experiences to share that will be catalyzed by your contribution.
- Connect with others. Five intelligent people over coffee can teach you as much as any class -- five clever people with books & laptops, possibly even more so. Get to know one another. Share notes, ideas, skills and recommendations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will engage in the close reading of literary texts
- Students will write a minimum of 3-4 graded writing assignments, in which they are expected to do the following:
 - develop a persuasive thesis across an essay
 - develop complex ideas using correct and effective expression according to academic practice of English as a discipline
 - use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately
- Students will be introduced to issues in secondary research (such as critical evaluation of and citation of secondary materials)
- Students will complete a formally scheduled *or* take-home final paper

TEXTS

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*. New York, NY: Del Rey, 2008.
Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Klara and the Sun*. London, UK: Faber, 2021.
Capek, Karel. *R.U.R.* New York, NY: Penguin Random House, 2004.
Morrison, Grant. *We3*. New York, NY: Vertigo Comics, 2004.

SHORT STORIES (available online)

Bradbury, Ray. "The Veldt" & "There Will Come Soft Rains"
Sarukkai, Priya et al. *Multispecies Cities: Solarpunk Urban Futures*. (various)

MEDIA (available online)

Lang, Fritz. *Metropolis*. Hollywood, CA: Paramount Pictures, 1927
Niccol, Andrew. *Gattaca*. Culver City, CA: Columbia Pictures, 1997.
Vincent, Sam & Jonathan Brackley. *Humans (2015)*. London, UK: Channel 4, 2015.
Wegener, Paul. *Der Golem (Reboot Rescored Version)*. Frankfurt, DE: PAGU Films, 1920.

There will also be some short, secondary readings on occasion, posted on Brightspace.

IMPORTANT DATES (WINTER 2021)

January 3, 2022—Deadline for winter course outlines.
January 10, 2022—Winter term begins.
January 24, 2022—Last day for registration for winter term courses.
February 18, 2022—April examination schedule available online.
February 21, 2022—Statutory holiday. University closed.
February 22-25, 2022—Winter Break. Classes are suspended.
March 29, 2022—Last day for summative tests or examinations or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade.
April 12, 2022—Last day of winter term classes. Last day to assign take-home exams due on the final day of the exam schedule. Last day that can be assigned as a due date for term work.
April 14-28, 2022—Final examinations.
April 15, 2022—Statutory holiday. University closed.

GRADING

Biography assignment	5%
Short Responses (4 x ~2p)	20%
Midterm Paper	30%
Final Paper	35%
Attendance and participation	10%

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Biography Assignment (2 paragraphs + photo): The bio assignment is basically a means of letting me know where you're coming from and getting to know others in the class. These are done via Brightspace and should include details like name, major, interests, and any other relevant information you'd like to share with your peers. As well, include what technology you're looking forward to in the future, which one worries you, and why. These are only graded as either complete/incomplete.

Short Responses (4 x ~2 pages): These are short papers written at the end of each month (Sept, Oct, Nov). These are essentially "five paragraph essays" designed to give people practice with thesis-based writing and using textual evidence. Prompts are provided, and one can write on any of the texts studied that month. If we haven't completed the text yet, one is welcome to write a paper based on the chapters completed to date.

Midterm Paper: (5-6 pages): These are research papers due before Winter Break (Feb 22-25). Library research and secondary materials should be used, as should a variety of textual evidence from the primary work you are focusing on. Only one internet source is allowed for these papers (online journals and other scholarly material accessed via the library do not count towards this). Citations and the bibliography should be in MLA format. A selection of prompts for the paper will be provided via Brightspace.

Final Paper: (6-8 pages): These are research papers due at the end of the semester. One can write on any of the MAJOR texts (ie. novel or graphic novel) from over the course of the class. Prompts will be provided via Brightspace. Citations and bibliography should be in MLA format.

Please use MLA (Modern Language Association) document & documentation style. For relevant examples, see:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

For formatting of Works Cited, see: <https://bibguru.com> or <http://www.citationmachine.net/>
Full assignment details will be available on Brightspace.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ATTENDANCE

Students will be allowed three absences. Additional absences will impact the final grade. Absences and contributions to the class overall are taken into account when calculating the final participation grade. If you need to be absent from class due to unforeseen circumstances, email me *before* class to let me know you will not be attending and (in general) why. Try to get notes and materials from others to see what we've covered.

*In cases where you are experiencing problems in class, or have circumstances outside of class that are affecting your academic work, the most important thing is to let me know. I don't need to have all the gritty details (and probably don't *want* to know) -- just keep me in the loop so that I know "where you're at" and hopefully alternative arrangements can be made. If you need some advice, guidance, a referral, assistance, or someone to listen, the door's always open.*

*Please note: If you vanish inexplicably for an extended period of time, there's a certain point at which it's out of my hands and I *can't* help you, due to the policies of the university. So don't do that.*

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>