

**Department of English
Carleton University
Early Summer 2018 (May-June)
ENGL 2107A: Science Fiction
Time: Tue/Thurs 11:35-2:25
Location: Tory Building 213**

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

**Instructor: Dr. Mayurika Chakravorty
Office: DT1907**

Office Hours: Thurs 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

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Course Description:

This course will focus on thematic and theoretical approaches to science fiction. We shall investigate alien encounters, space travel, cyber-punk, artificial intelligence, post/transhumanism, environmental apocalypse, and a spectrum of alternative realities and reconstructions of traditional social and political order. The readings will include representative science fiction texts from across the globe, and will be analyzed through a number of theoretical frameworks.

Texts:

We are going to study three novels and several short stories. The novels listed below will be available for purchase at: Octopus Books (116 Third Ave; www.octopusbooks.ca; 613.233.2589). The first novel (Wells) is also available online (<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36>). The short stories will be available via ARES on CuLearn.

H. G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*

Ursula Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*

M. G. Vassanji, *Nostalgia*

Evaluation:

25 % Participation. Students will be graded in terms of preparedness for the class as well as the level of participation in class discussions and in-class activities.

[***NOTE***: Students are expected to attend all classes, having read and reflected upon the material according the syllabus]

20% -- In-class pop quiz/tests

25% -- Group presentation

30% -- Essay (6 pages)

Course Policies:

-- All assignments are mandatory and class tests need to be written on the dates specified. If you are unable to make it to class on the day of an in-class assignment, please send me an e. mail in advance as soon as you can. You will need to provide a doctor's note (if you are ill) or other relevant documentation.

-- **In the case of late submission of an assignment, there will be a penalty of 5% of the total mark per day** unless there is a pressing and well-documented reason and you have informed me beforehand.

-- All assignments are due in class. If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

Classroom Etiquette:

-- **Please come to class on time and be prepared to stay for the entire class.** Coming late or leaving early is highly disruptive and disrespectful towards your professor and fellow students. If you arrive late due to unforeseen circumstances, please minimize the disturbance by sitting in a seat close to the door. Since this a 3-hour class, we shall have a short break in between. However, if you leave early (unless there is a valid reason and you have informed me in advance, e.g. doctor's appointment), you will be marked absent for the day even if you have signed the attendance sheet.

-- **Please make sure you come to class with a copy of the text to be discussed on that specific day.**

-- **Cell-phones need to be put away in silent mode during class hours.**

-- Although it is expected that we shall discuss a wide variety of perspectives on the topics discussed in this class, we are also required to do so in a respectful manner. Racist, sexist, homophobic, or ableist comments are unacceptable. To this end, **students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning conduct and academic standing as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar:** The Undergraduate Calendar can be accessed online at:

<http://www.carleton.ca/cuuc/>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which 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 a final grade of "F" for the course.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional 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."

REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC 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 more details see the [Student Guide](#).

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 see the [Student Guide](#).

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*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).