

**Carleton University
Fall 2017
Department of English**

ENGL 2107A: *Science Fiction: The Post-Apocalyptic Imagination*

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the department

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1.05pm-2.25pm

Classroom: ME 3235

Professor T. DeCook

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Office Hours: by appointment

This course examines novels, short stories, and films which imagine human experience in the wake of world-historical catastrophes. We will consider the distinctive kinds of ethical and political reflection prompted by post-apocalyptic works. We will also pay attention to the kinds of community these works imagine arising from the remains of the old world. Throughout we will be attending to how these works might be understood as responses to specific historical concerns and conflicts, and how they might generate reflection on our own situation.

cuLearn

Announcements and documents pertaining to the course will be posted on cuLearn. Students are fully responsible for reading all course material transmitted here. Information posted to cuLearn will be considered provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting.

Course Work and Evaluation

Writing assignment 1: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Writing assignment 2: 25%

Final exam (December exam period): 30%

Participation: 5%

Classroom Protocols

Audio and visual recording devices are not allowed within the classroom. Students who want audio recordings of lectures must obtain authorization from the instructor. To avoid disrupting fellow students, please refrain from talking to neighbours during class, and turn off cell phones before class begins.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism – making someone else’s work or ideas appear as your own – can happen accidentally. However, inadvertent plagiarism is treated the same as intentional plagiarism, and the consequences for this infraction are severe: expulsion from and an F in the course and, in some cases, expulsion from the university. For the code outlining plagiarism, see the section on “Instructional Offences” in the Undergraduate Calendar.

You must be extremely vigilant in documenting all of your sources (including the course lectures). Use MLA format for citation. Please note that plagiarism includes recycling your own work used in other courses.

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 <<http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>>.

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).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website < <http://carleton.ca/pmc/> > for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Schedule of readings (subject to change)

Sept 7: Introduction

Sept 12: stories from Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*: “The Luggage Store”; “The Off Season”; “The Watchers”; “The Silent Towns”; “The Long Years”; “There Will Come Soft Rains”; “The Million Year Picnic”

Sept 14: Walter M. Miller, Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Sept 19: Walter M. Miller, Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Sept 21: Walter M. Miller, Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Sept 26: Walter M. Miller, Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

Sept 28: J.G. Ballard, *The Drowned World*

Oct 3: J.G. Ballard, *The Drowned World*

Oct 5: Philip K. Dick, *Dr. Bloodmoney*

Oct 10: Philip K. Dick, *Dr. Bloodmoney*

Oct 12: *Twelve Monkeys* (dir. Terry Gilliam)

Oct 17: *Twelve Monkeys* (dir. Terry Gilliam)

Oct 19: Midterm Exam

Oct 24: No class

Oct 26: No class

Oct 31: Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Nov 2: Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Nov 7: Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Nov 9: *Children of Men* (dir. Alfonso Cuarón)

Nov 14: *Children of Men* (dir. Alfonso Cuarón)

Nov 16: *Zone One*, Colson Whitehead

Nov 21: No class

Nov 23: *Zone One*, Colson Whitehead

Nov 28: *Snowpiercer* (dir. Bong Joon-ho)

Nov 30: Emily St. John Mandel, *Station Eleven*

Dec 5: Emily St. John Mandel, *Station Eleven*

Dec 7: Review

Required Texts

Please use the specific version of the text indicated so that you can follow along in lectures and class discussion.

The following hardcopy texts can be purchased at Haven Books (43 Seneca Street):

Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles* (Simon & Schuster)

Walter M. Miller, Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (Spectra)

J.G. Ballard, *The Drowned World* (UK General Books)

Philip K. Dick, *Dr. Bloodmoney* (Mariner)

Cormac McCarthy, *The Road* (Vintage)

Colson Whitehead, *Zone One* (Anchor)

Emily St. John Mandel, *Station Eleven* (Harper)

You are responsible for watching the three films in advance of our discussions. DVD copies of all films will be available at the Library reserve desk. In addition, *Children of Men* and *Snowpiercer* are available on Netflix.