

Carleton University
Winter 2022
Department of English

ENGL 2107A: Science Fiction

Topic: Science Fiction and Social Media

Prerequisites: Prerequisite(s): Second-year standing or permission of the department.

TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays 16:05-17:25

Location: Online

Format: Blended

Instructor: Prof. Brian Greenspan

Office Hours: TBA

Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 2360

Email: brian.greenspan@carleton.ca

Website: <http://brightspace.carleton.ca>

(N.B. please include “2107” in the subject line of all e-mails)

I. Course description: A study of the history and traditions of science fiction, speculative fiction, fantasy, and utopia, covering various periods, nationalities, genres, and/or media, from the nineteenth century to the present.

Science and speculative fiction (SF) developed into a popular genre alongside historical advances in mass media, including print journals, radio, television, film, popular music, video games and the internet. We will approach SF as a social medium by exploring fictional narratives in relation to the histories, myths, fantasies, and current realities of technological media. Topics for discussion may include SF subgenres and movements, fandoms, online memes, hacktivism, crowdsourcing, maker culture, digital media theory, gaming, digital surveillance, artificial intelligence, climate crisis, and new narrative interfaces.

II. Preclusions: none.

III. Learning Outcomes: Students will gain familiarity with the history of science fiction, along with critical theories and interpretive methods for better understanding the genre in all of its forms and media. They will learn to critique and reflect on popular cultural genres and social media, while gaining exposure to various theories of narrative, media, gender, colonialism, political economy, and posthumanism. They will learn to learn online, and to communicate complex and original critical insights through means other than the printed word.

IV. Required Texts: The reading list below is provisional and subject to change depending on the availability of primary texts. Please be sure to check back before the start of class before buying your texts. **Only the latest version of the syllabus posted on our course Brightspace site is the official version.**

H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*

Alfred Bester, *The Stars My Destination*

Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Lathe of Heaven*

Marge Piercy, *He, She and It*

plus various online, secondary, and supplemental texts.

Course texts will be available at **Octopus Books**, 116 Third Avenue (at Bank St.). You can order texts from Octopus for pickup or delivery anywhere in Canada at: <http://shop.octopusbooks.ca/ENGL2107>.

Shorter fictions, secondary texts, and supplemental readings can be found through MacOdrum Library's online [Course Reserves](#) and digital holdings, or linked from our Brightspace course page.

We will also be viewing one motion picture (title to be announced), available freely via MacOdrum Library's website. A link will be provided on Brightspace on the date of the screening.

V. Blended Instruction: ENGL 2107 is a blended course, meaning some of our classes will take place synchronously online at our regularly scheduled class time, while others will include asynchronous online video Modules, Forum discussions, and other activities. Each class, whether synchronous or asynchronous, will have associated readings--usually novels or short stories--that will form the basis of our discussion.

All online Modules and Forum discussions will be linked to our Brightspace course site. Our synchronous meetings will take place using the **Zoom** platform via Brightspace. Those who install the Zoom app are encouraged to create a free Zoom account **using their *email.carleton.ca* email account**.

You will be encouraged, but not required, to enable your camera for our Zoom meetings, and will have the opportunity to participate in our discussions verbally and/or through the Zoom chat window. You can join our Zoom meetings with the current link provided on Brightspace either using the Zoom app, or through a standard web browser. You can also dial into any class meeting by phone, using the Zoom ID Codes that will be provided in advance on Brightspace and one of [Zooms' toll-free numbers](#):

+1 647 374 4685 (Ontario)

+1 647 558 0588 (Ontario)

Local numbers for users located outside of Ontario can be found at: <https://zoom.us/j/acKFv2t3c>.

For instructions on installing or running Zoom, please visit Carleton Online: <https://carleton.ca/online>.

For more Brightspace support, please visit Brightspace Support: <https://carleton.ca/brightspace>.

VI. Evaluation:

1) Short Assignment	DUE February 14	25%
2) Term Assignment	DUE April 6	50%
3) Online participation	DUE regularly	25%

All assignments will be graded on a number of criteria, including their interpretive originality, critical insight, attention to the primary text, grammar, clarity of expression, and persuasiveness. **In order to pass the course, you must complete and submit all assignments. N.B. It is an offence to hand 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.**

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.

Short Assignment and Term Assignment (DUE February 14 and April 6 respectively)

Topics for your Short and Term Assignments will be circulated on Brightspace closer to the due date. Your Assignments should provide an original, critical, and well-documented exploration of the assigned topic as it relates to class material, and should be researched, theorized, fully documented, and contextualized within a broader awareness of the kinds of

literary and critical issues we discuss in class. All assignments will be submitted and graded through Brightspace, and will conform to the latest MLA format and style of parenthetical citation (see **Documentation**, below).

Online Participation (DUE regularly)

You will have the opportunity to contribute in our synchronous Zoom meetings, as well as through our **Brightspace Forum**. A portion of most classes will be set aside for asynchronous discussion on the Forum, which will contribute to a substantial portion of your final grade. Grading criteria will include:

- the relevance of your contributions to our course texts and online Modules;
- the extent and critical insightfulness of your contributions;
- your level of engagement and respectful dialogue with other members of the class;
- the regularity and consistency of your participation.

Please respect your fellow classmates at all times. When in doubt, follow **The Golden Rule of Netiquette**:

Don't post any message that you wouldn't say aloud in class or f2f.

To ensure that you get the most out of the Forum, it's best to visit and engage with it on a regular basis, and respond to what others are saying there. Your Participation grade will be determined in part by the regularity of your contributions, so don't wait until the end of term to participate.

Please remember that Brightspace is a virtual extension of our classroom, and therefore is subject to the University's conduct regulations. At all times, you must respect your fellow classmates, and try to keep the discussion relevant to our course goals.

For more tips on Netiquette and on succeeding in **Online Interaction and Engagement**, visit:

<https://carleton.ca/online/online-learning-resources>.

Absences from Class

Please notify me through e-mail of any anticipated or unavoidable absences from class due to emergency or illness.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted through Brightspace on or before the deadline. **Please don't e-mail assignments to me.** It is important that you submit each assignment through Brightspace, as doing so provides proof that you have submitted it on time. Assignments not submitted through Brightspace will not be considered for grading, and will score 0.

** N.B. To avoid potential sanction, please retain all rough work, including digital files. The instructor reserves the right to request all rough work, and to withhold the grade for any given assignment pending a supplemental oral examination by two professors.*

Extensions, Late Assignments and Special Accommodations

- All assignments are expected to be submitted on time, unless you have: i) a medical note from a doctor explaining that you could not complete the assignment; ii) an explanatory note from the Paul Menton Centre (See Academic Accommodation, below); or iii) special permission for an extension from me.
- **You may submit all assignments up to 3 days late without penalty**; however, late or extended assignments will not receive extensive feedback.
- Assignments submitted more than 3 days late will be docked 5%/day, up to a maximum of 15%. Assignments handed in more than 6 days past the due date will not be accepted, and will score 0. In other words, plan ahead,

develop a work schedule, and stick to it. Any request for an extension beyond 3 days must be submitted by email to the instructor at least one week before the due date.

Delays do sometimes occur as a result of computer errors. However, responsibility for your work rests ultimately with you. Be sure to back up your work and print out hard copies regularly as you write. That way, if your computer fails, you can always locate another one to finish your work.

Documentation

You are expected to document any and all primary and secondary sources referred to (directly or indirectly) in your assignments, including sources for websites, musical, visual and electronic information. **The MLA style of parenthetical references with a Works Cited page, as detailed in the MLA Handbook (8th ed.) and the APA style (7th ed.) are the only acceptable methods of documentation:**

<https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/citation/documents/mla.pdf>
<https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/documents/apa7.pdf>.

It's your own responsibility to educate yourself on how to avoid plagiarism through careful research habits and the proper documentation of sources. Any failure to document sources, whether deliberate or inadvertent, will carry heavy sanctions, and may result in a failing grade or expulsion (see Academic Integrity, below), so please double-check your Works Cited before submitting assignments. Make sure you know both the University's policies on plagiarism, and the MLA Handbook guidelines for referencing sources. If you're still in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism or about the legitimacy of a citation or reference, please ask me or your T.A., or check with the Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service (See Helpful Student Services, below).

To avoid potential sanction, please retain all rough work. The instructor reserves the right to request all rough work, and to withhold the grade for any given assignment pending a supplemental oral examination by two professors.

VII. PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Carleton University has a clear policy on academic integrity, including procedures to address academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, and other activities that violate academic integrity standards).

It is particularly important in this class that students understand and meet academic integrity standards, and are sure they do not violate these standards through plagiarism. The following definition of plagiarism is taken from Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy, Part VI (this definition also appears in the Undergraduate Calendar):

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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;
- 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>.

Any secondary sources incorporated into your papers, including essays that the instructor links or puts on Reserve, must be cited appropriately. If you have any questions about when and how to cite sources, do not hesitate to ask either your instructor or your T.A. If we suspect that an essay has been plagiarized either deliberately or inadvertently, we are required to submit the essay to the Dean, who will conduct a thorough investigation into the case and administer penalties. The penalties for plagiarism are very severe, ranging from failure in the course to expulsion from the university. It's not worth the risk!

Carleton has other important policies regarding tests, examinations, and unauthorized resubmission of your work (that is, handing in the same paper in more than one class). Be sure you understand the standards so as to avoid any academic misconduct.

N.B. To avoid potential sanction, please retain all rough work. The instructor reserves the right to request all rough work, and to withhold the grade for any given assignment pending a supplemental oral examination by two professors.

For more helpful information visit the Academic Advising Centre: <http://carleton.ca/academicadvising>.

VIII. Special Information Regarding Winter 2022 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and mandatory self-screening prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory symptom reporting tool. For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the COVID-19 website.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the University's COVID-19 webpage and review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy. Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

IX. Requests for Academic Accommodation

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/sexual-assault-support-services>

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>

X. Helpful Student Services

CU Online has lots of great advice for managing online courses: <https://carleton.ca/online>.

The **Centre for Student Academic Support** (<http://carleton.ca/csas/>) offers valuable support for writing and research, such as **Writing Services** (<https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services>).

Carleton Health and Counselling Services (<http://www.carleton.ca/health/>) offers comprehensive health care, including counselling of personal problems and emotional distress. 2600 Carleton Technology & Training Centre.

For other services and support, visit <http://www.carleton.ca/studentssupport>.

XI. Contacting Your Instructor

I am available for online meetings during my virtual office hours on a first-come, first-serve basis to discuss issues directly related to the course. Office hours will be posted on our Brightspace course site.

E-mail is the most reliable means of contacting me. You can send me a message by e-mail from your Carleton account any time of day or night, and I will respond in good time (usually within 3 working days). For a timely response, be sure to use your Carleton e-mail account, and to include the course number ("2107") in the subject line of your message.

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