



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

EN1220 (A3 & B3) TEXTS AND CONTEXTS – SCIENCE FICTION– 3(3-0-0) 45 HOURS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Lapointe **PHONE:** 780-539-2992
OFFICE: C420 **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 2-3pm, Wednesdays 1:30-3pm, Fridays 12-1:30pm

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Successful completion of Alberta English 30 (or equivalent of grade 12 English). This course will fulfill 3 credits of requirements for most programs that specify 6 credits of first year or Junior English. Normally, no more than 6 credits of first year English or equivalent may be taken for credit.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Babington, Doug, et al. *The Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing*. 3rd edition. Broadview Press.
- Brooks, Max. *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*. Three Rivers Press.
- Masri, Heather, ed. *Science Fiction: Stories and Contexts*. Compact Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's Press.

Additional material is posted on Moodle. Ensure you can access this material well before the class in which it will be taken up.

The goal of this class is to create a safe environment in which we examine both texts and our own ideas about them. Discomfort can be part of the learning process. However, if the discomfort starts to turn to distress, please take care of yourself. You can withdraw from an activity or even leave the classroom.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore a specific issue (to be determined by the instructor) using a variety of genres and media. Instruction will include essay writing skills.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE: Lecture and discussion

OBJECTIVES: Students will read and critically analyze a variety of science fiction texts, and articulate their conclusions in clear, structured writing, with an emphasis on academic essay forms.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe a variety of science fiction subtypes
- Articulate in outline the history of the science fiction genre
- Critically analyze texts with reference to symbolic language, structure, and patterns of language
- Make connections between different texts in terms of both specific content and genre evolution
- Write academic literary analysis essays using science fiction texts as primary sources

TRANSFERABILITY:

University of Alberta

University of Calgary

University of Lethbridge

Athabasca University

Grant MacEwan University

King's University College *

Other (transfers in combination with other courses or to other institutions)

* An asterisk (*) beside any transfer institution indicates important transfer information. Consult the Alberta Transfer Guide.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Assignments will be assessed according to university-level standards of writing, including (but not limited to) spelling, grammar, compositional coherence, and

critical thinking. Grading standards will rise in the course of the term. All assessments will be given as letter grades.

Quizzes & small assignments	10%
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	25%
Response papers (2 x 5%)	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to this course. Each unexcused absence will result in a 3% deduction from your attendance & participation grade.

If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness, family crisis, snowed in – please provide pictures, hit by a bus), let the instructor know **by e-mail**. I appreciate it when you tell me verbally, but I need the e-mail so that I can check my records at the end of the term. In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section (EN1220 A3).

That said, simply showing up is not sufficient. You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up. So ask!

Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows and handouts are posted on Moodle. Students may also wish to contact classmates for details of in-class discussions. If, after you have gone through the slideshow/other materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to clarify.

Quizzes are not scheduled at the beginning of term. They will be announced 1-2 classes beforehand. Students with excused absences will be allowed to write the

quizzes at a later time. Students with unexcused absences will not be permitted to write the quizzes later. Missed quizzes may not be written after the last day of classes.

Assignment submission

Assignments are due by 4:00pm on the due date. If you submit on paper, please submit your assignment to the instructor at the beginning of the class, or leave it in the mailbox on her office door. Paper assignments will receive hand-written feedback.

If you submit your assignment electronically, it must be e-mailed in **PDF format** (other formats will not be accepted), and must be date-stamped no later than the end of the day's class. PDF assignments will receive feedback via file annotation. The comments can be accessed in Adobe Reader (free software – link provided on Moodle). Ensure that your file name is in the following format:

FirstName LastName – EN 1220 A3 – assignment number.pdf

Late Assignments

Late papers may be handed directly to the instructor, left in the mailbox on my office door (C420), or e-mailed in PDF format. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that I have received assignments left on my door.

Late papers are penalized at the rate of 1% per day, to a maximum deduction of 10% (one letter grade). Weekends count as one day. Late papers will be accepted until 4pm on the last day of classes.

Extensions

Students must contact the instructor directly regarding extensions. I grant extensions for the following reasons: technological failure (may be used only once), sick children/family crisis, illness or injury of student (with doctor's note), alien abduction (documentation required). Extensions are not open-ended; rather, we will agree on a new deadline, after which late penalties apply.

Moodle

The Moodle course page is the electronic core of this class! Make sure you can access the page, and check it at least twice a week. Handouts and slideshows are posted there and can be accessed by students for reference and study purposes.

The Moodle page also contains the list of assignments, class announcements, useful links, and resource materials. Please ensure that you can access all files and links, and inform the instructor of any problems.

Course announcements are delivered via GPRC e-mail. Please check your GPRC mail account daily. (Instructions on how to put GPRC mail on your phone are posted on Moodle!)

If you have trouble accessing Moodle or your GPRC e-mail, contact the technical support office immediately. Students are responsible for ensuring they have access to the course material.

Electronics in the Classroom

I permit the use of electronic devices (laptop computers, tablets, and phones) in the classroom for note-taking and document-access purposes. Please turn off all sound-generating functions.

If you do not choose to print the readings posted on Moodle, please ensure that you can access these documents electronically during class.

I cannot reliably determine whether students are using their devices for class-related purposes. If you choose to use your device for non-class purposes (such as texting and Facebook), please be aware that those activities actually damage the learning experience of those around you. Thus, if you absolutely *must* text in class, please sit in the back so as to distract as few of your classmates as possible.

If your phone rings in class, the instructor may dance wildly to your ringtone. Be warned.

Office Hours

My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline, and are also posted on my office door. These are times when I guarantee* I'll be available to meet with you. During office hours, you don't need an appointment to meet with me. This is your time, as much as class time is. Feel free to ask questions, seek help, ask for more information, or simply come by to admire my collection of odd stuffed animals.

If you are busy during my office hours, contact me (preferably by e-mail), and we'll

make a time to meet that works for both of us.

*Guarantee void if instructor has the stomach flu, for obvious reasons. But I'll leave a note.

Pre-Assessments

Students often request that I “look over” an assignment before it is due, and offer feedback at that point. I regret that I cannot do so for full assignments, simply because of the time commitment involved. However, I am always pleased to review your thesis statement, and even to review several drafts of it. You may e-mail your thesis statement to me if you don't wish to come to office hours.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>

Or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Readings must be completed **before** the class in which they are taken up. Please bring the text with you to class, as you will need to refer to it regularly.

This schedule is subject to change. Alterations will be posted on Moodle.

Class 1 – Welcome and Introduction

Class 2 – Ray Bradbury – “Mars is Heaven!”

Class 3 – Ursula K. Le Guin – “Vaster Than Empires and More Slow”
Class 4 – Frantz Fanon – “The Fact of Blackness”
Class 5 – Carl Jung – “The Shadow; film clips (*E.T.*; *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*)
Class 6 – Mary Shelley – from *Frankenstein* – not in textbook/posted on Moodle
Class 7 – Philip K. Dick – “Second Variety”
Class 8 – James Tiptree, Jr. – “The Girl Who Was Plugged In”; **first essay due**
Class 9 – Jean Baudrillard – “The Precession of Simulacra”
Class 10 – Donna Haraway – “The Cyborg Manifesto”; Artificial Life film clip (*The Animatrix: The Second Renaissance*); **first response paper due**
Class 11 Robert Silverberg – “When We Went to See the End of the World”; film clip (*Doctor Who* – “*The End of the World*”);
Class 12 – Ted Chiang – “The Story of Your Life”
Class 13 – Harlan Ellison – “‘Repent, Harlequin!’ Said the Ticktockman”
Class 14 – Joanna Russ – “When It Changed”
Class 15 – Nalo Hopkinson – “Something to Hitch Meat to”
Class 16 – Frederic Jameson – “Progress vs. Utopia; or, Can We Imagine the Future?”
Class 17 – Film clips (*Fight Club*; *Gattaca*)
Class 18 – J.G. Ballard – “The Terminal Beach”; **second essay due**
Class 19 – Terry Bisson – “Bears Discover Fire”
Class 20 – *World War Z*
Class 21 – *World War Z*; **second response paper due**
Class 22 – *World War Z*
Class 23 – *World War Z*
Class 24 – Film Clip (*The Walking Dead*)
Class 25 –review for exam

Final exam date TBA. Please ensure you are available for the entire exam period.