

Grande Prairie Regional College
Science Fiction and Fantasy
English 3990
Winter 2008

Instructor: Dr.Kazem Mashkournia
Office:C401
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Office hours: Monday 9:00:00-11:00
Or by appointment
Tuesday, Thursday 11:30 to 12:50

Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English

Course Description

In this course we will study a selection of major works in speculative fiction published from 1954 to 1999 and intended for a mass audience. A large part of the course will be on different forms of post-WW2, mostly North American, speculative fiction.

Course Objectives

We will explore how science fiction reacts to the problems of our time, and how this genre addresses our century's hopes for a world better than our own. In this **course, we** will examine speculative fiction as a literary forum both for optimists who are convinced that the lot of humanity can be improved and also for those pessimists who disagree.

Required Text:

J.R.R. Tolkien	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	(1954)
Frank Herbert	<u>Dune</u>	(1965)
Joanna Russ	<u>The Female Man</u>	(1975)
Douglas Adams	<u>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</u>	(1979)
Orson Scott Card	<u>Ender's Game</u>	(1984)
William Gibson	<u>Neuromancer</u>	(1984)
Octavia Butler	<u>Parable of the Sower</u>	(1994)

Term Work

The First Essay	25%
The Second Essay	25%
Presentation and class participation	20%
Final Exam	30%

Tentative Schedule

Jan.	03	Introduction	
Jan.	08,10	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	
Jan.	15,17	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	
Jan	22,24	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	
Jan	29, 31	<u>Dune</u>	
Feb.	05,07	<u>Dune</u>	
Feb.	12,14	<u>The Female Man</u>	(FIRST ESSAY DUE)
Feb.	26,28	<u>The Female Man</u>	
March	04,06	<u>Parable of the Sower</u>	
March	11,13	<u>Parable of the Sower</u>	
March	18,20	<u>Ender's Game</u>	
March	25,27	<u>Ender's Game</u>	(SECOND ESSAY DUE)
April	01,03	<u>Neuromancer</u>	
April	08,10	<u>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</u>	