

FEB. 07 2003

Grande Prairie Regional College
English 4103
Science Fiction and Fantasy
Winter 2003

Instructor: Kazem Mashkournia
Office: C401
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Office hours: M 10:00-12:00
Or by appointment

English 4103 MW 8:30 -950

Course Description

In this course will study a selection of major works in speculative fiction published from 1954 to 1999 and intended for a mass audience. We will read different forms of post-WW2, largely 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.	06	Introduction	
Jan.	08	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	
Jan.	13,15	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	
Jan	20,22	<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	
Jan	27,29	<u>Dune</u>	
Feb.	03,05	<u>Dune</u>	
Feb.	10,12	<u>The Female Man</u>	(FIRST ESSAY DUE)
Feb.	17,19	<u>The Female Man</u>	
Feb	24 to 28	WINTER BREAK	
March	03,05	<u>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</u>	
March	10,12	<u>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</u>	
March	17,19	<u>Ender's Game</u>	
March	24,26	<u>Ender's Game</u>	(SECOND ESSAY DUE)
March	31, April 02	Neuromancer	
April	07,09	<u>Parable of the Sower</u>	
April	14,16	<u>Shining</u>	