

Grande Prairie Regional College
English 4103 English Genre series
3(3-0-0)
2006-07

Instructor: Dr. Kazem Mashkournia
Office: C401
Phone: 539-2992
Office Hours: Friday: 9:00-11:30
Or by appointment

Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will examine one of the most popular genres of Hollywood cinema, suggesting how the science fiction film reflects attitudes toward science, technology, and reason. In this course we will start with the definition of SF film and explore what characteristics are unique to this genre vs. other media, such as television, video games and comic books. Also we will focus on a historical survey of science fiction film and follow its development to our time.

Term Works Assignment Schedule:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| First Essay | 2500 word essay | 30% (Oct. 06) |
| Second Essay | 2500 word essay | 25% (Nov.24) |
| Class participation | | 10% |
| Presentations | | 10% |
| Mid-term | | 10% |
| Final Exam | | 20% |

Tentative Course schedule

A-Definition and History of SF Film

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| Week one | Introduction, Metropolis |
| Week Two | Metropolis |

B- The Hero's Journey

| | |
|------------|---|
| Week Three | Star War IV (New Hope) and V (The empire Strikes Back) |
|------------|---|

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Week four | Star War |
|-----------|----------|

C- The 50's :Alien Invasion and Creatures Features

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Week five | The Thing |
|-----------|-----------|

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Week Six | The Day the Earth Stood Still |
|----------|-------------------------------|

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Week Seven | Invasion of the Body Snatchers |
|------------|--------------------------------|

D- The 60's: Holocausts and expanded visions

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Week Eight | Dr. Strangelove |
|------------|-----------------|

E- The 70's: Critiques; Gender Issues

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Week Nine | Silent Runner |
|-----------|---------------|

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Week Ten | Stepford Wives |
|----------|----------------|

F- The 70's: Horror meets Sf

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Week Eleven | Alien |
|-------------|-------|

G- the 80's: Future Revisioned. Postmodernism meets SF

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Week Twelve | Blade Runner |
|-------------|--------------|

H- The 90's: Commerce is our Goal

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Week thirteen | Matrix |
|---------------|--------|

Reading materials

A-Definition and History of SF Film

Telotte Chapter 1 (pp 3-33)

Telotte chap.3 pp (63-123)

Patalas, Enno “Metropolis Screen 103”

Desser, David “Race, Space and Class: The politics of Sfi film form
Metropolis to Blade Runner” in Kerman Retrafitting Blade Runner (1990)
pp.110-123

Telotte , J.P. “The Seduction Text of Metropolis” chapter 2 of Replications

B- The Hero’s Journey

Excerpts on romance from Northrop Fry’s Anatomy of Criticism

Excerpts from Joseph Campbell’s The Hero with a Thousand Faces

Excerpts on the female hero from Pearson and Pope’s The Female Hero in
American and British Literature

Gorden, Andrew. “Star Wars: The Myth of our time.” 1978

Gorden, Andrew. “Star Wars: The Empire strikes Back. Monsters from the
Id.” 1980.

Ruby, Dan. “Star Wars: Not So Long Ago Not so Far Away. 1980

C- Alien Invasions and Creatures Features

-King and Kryzwinska intro “Spectacle and Speculation” (pp1-11)

-Lucino, Patrick. “Myths and Motifs of The Monsters Movies”

-Wells, Paul. “The Invisible Man: Shrinking Masculinity in the 1950’s
Science Fiction.”

-Tarratt, Margaret.” Monsters from the Id.”

-Warren, Bill. “Entry on the Thing from Another World.” From Keep
Watching the Skies. PP.48-54.

-London, Brooks. “The Thing in all its Guises: Reconsidering a Science
Fiction Classic.”

-Biskind, Peter. “The Russions are Coming, Aren’t They? Them!, the
Thing, and the Extremists from Beyond the Center.” Seeing Is Believing PP.
123-36.

-Biskind, peter. Friends in High Places: The Day the Earth Stood Still, It
Came from Outer Space, and the Suppression of Paranoia.” In Seeing is
Belileving. PP 145-59.

-Sobchack, 120-136 (dehumanizing Humans)

-Entry on Them from Keep Watching the Skies
-Biskind, Peter. "The Mind Manager: Invasion of The Body Snatchers and the Paranoid Style in American Movies." Seeing is Believing
-Entry on the Invasion of the Body Snatchers from Keep Watching the Skies
-Steffen Fluhr, Nancy. Women and the Inner Game of Dan Siegel's Invasion of Body Snatchers."
-Johnson, Glen M. "'We'd Fight~~~We had to' The Body Snatchers as Novel and Film." Journal of Popular Culture, 1979, 13, 514.

D- The 60's: Holocausts and expanded visions

Sontag, Susan. "The Imagination of Disaster."
Combrow, Robert C. "Survivors: the Day after Doomsday." Peary 1984.
Brodrick, Mick. "Surviving Armageddon. Beyond the imagination of Disaster." (1993)

Reading on Strangelove

Brustein, Robert. "Out of This World." The New York Review of Books, February 6, 1970. Rpt. In Perspectives on Stanley Kubrick, ed, Mario Falsetto, pp. 136-40.

Kolker, Robert Phillip. "Dr. Strangelove nad 2001: A Space Odyssey" 1980. Rpt. In Perspectives on Stanley Kubrick, ed, Mario Falsetto, 141

Nelson, Thomas Allen. "The Descent of Man." Chapter 4 of Kubrick: Inside a Film Artist's Maze. Bloomington:Indiana UP, 1982.

Devries, Daniel. Chapter 4 of Kubrick: The Films of Stanley Kubrick. Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1973, pp. 34-44.

Kagan, Norman. Excerpt from The Cinema of Stanley Kubrick. New York: Continuum, 1993, pp. 132-144.

E-The 70's: Critiques

Telotte, Chapter 2, SF: The Critical Context, 33-63

Ryan, Michael and Douglas Kellner. "Technophobia" From Camera Politics. Rpt. In Kuhn, Alien Zone. (On THX1138, Logan's Run and BR)

Bruce Franklin, "Visions of the Future in SF Films from 1970-82." Rpt in Alien Zone (1990)

Reading on Sex in Sf Films

Vivian Sobchack, "The Virginity of Astronauts: Sex and the Science Fiction Film" (Kuhn 1990)

Thomson, David. "Sex in Science Fiction Films: Romance or Engineering?" (1984) (Peary)

F-The 70's: Horror Meets SF

Barbara Creed. "Gynesis, Postmodernism and the Science Fiction Horror Film." (Kuhn 1990)

Rebecca Bell-Metereau, "Woman: The Other Alien in Alien" (1985)

Judith Newton. "Feminism and Anxiety in Alien." (SFS 1980)

G-The 80's: The Future Revisioned Postmodernism meets sf

Re-read (Xer I) Desser, David, "Race, Space, and Class." In Retrofitting Blade Runner, ed. Judith Kerman.

Interview with Ridley Scott on directing Alien and Blade Runner by Danny Peary.

Bukataman, Scott. Excerpt on Production in BFI book on Blade Runner (1997)

C. Carter Colwell, "Primitivism in the Movies of Ridley Scott: Alien and Blade Runner."

Dick, Philip K. Excerpt from "Man, Android, and Machine"

H-The 90's: Commerce is our Goal

Readings on Alien and Independence Day

Greenberg, Harvey. "Fembo: *Aliens'* Intentions." (1988)

Abbott, Joe. "They Came from Beyond the Center: Ideology and Political Textuality in the Radical Science Fiction Films of James Cameron." *Literature/Film Quarterly* (1994)

Friedman, Michael D. "Independence Day: The American Henry V and the Myth of David." (2000)

Mair, Jan. "Rewriting the American Dream: Postmodernism and Otherness in *Independence Day*" *Aliens R Us* Ed. Ziauddin Sardar and Sean Cubitt. London: Pluto Press 2002, 34-49.

Reading on the Matrix

Schuchardt, Read, "What Is the Matrix?" (Yeffeth, 5-22)

Gordon, Andrew, "The Matrix: Paradigm of Post-Modernism.." II. (Yeffeth, 85-102)