

<b>COURSE NUMBER:</b> VR318		<b>COURSE TITLE:</b> Science Fiction 科幻小说	
<b>CREDIT:</b> 3		<b>PREREQUISITES:</b> VY100 and VY200	
<b>TEXTBOOKS/REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> /The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction/, ed. Evans et. al.		<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Peter Weise <b>DATE OF PREPARATION:</b> December 1, 2018 <b>DATE OF UC APPROVAL:</b> May 2019	
<b>INSTRUCTOR(S):</b> PETER WEISE		<b>SCIENCE/DESIGN:</b>	
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b> This course focuses on the genre of science fiction. Readings primarily include novels and short stories from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century to the present, but lectures also address debates about the history of science fiction to contextualize readings. Works of science fiction will be selected from various national traditions.		<b>COURSE TOPICS:</b> <div><div>1.</div><div>Debates over the nature and origin of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Soft versus Hard Science Fiction</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>Shift from marginal to mainstream genre in the 20<sup>th</sup> century</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>Political, economic, and scientific contexts of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>Forms of science fiction: novel, short story, magazine, film</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>Different national developments of science fiction, such as in France, Britain, U.S., Soviet Union, and China</div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>Selection of key authors: Mary Shelley, Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Aldous Huxley, H.P. Lovecraft, Philip K. Dick, Olaf Stapledon, Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Michael Moorcock, William Gibson, Ursula K. Le Guin, Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, and Liu Cixin</div></div> <div><div>8.</div><div>Selection of key themes: utopia/dystopia, feminism, alien encounters, robots, space travel, time travel, technological sublime</div></div>	
<b>COURSE STRUCTURE/SCHEDULE:</b>			
<b>COURSE OBJECTIVES</b> [Course Outcomes in brackets]	This course is designed to help students gain the following: <div><div>1.</div><div>A broad understanding of the genre of science fiction [1, 2, 3, 4]</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>An awareness of the relationship between science fiction and political, economic, and scientific developments [2, 3, 4]</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>The ability to do close reading [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>The ability to raise questions about literary representations [1, 2, 3, 6]</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>The ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments [1, 2, 6]</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>The ability to find and use primary and secondary sources [1]</div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>Writing skills that are organized around thesis-driven analysis and argumentation [7, 8, 9, 10]</div></div> <div><div>8.</div><div>Read a range of science fiction works at a fast pace [11]</div></div>		
<b>COURSE OUTCOMES</b> [Student Outcomes in brackets]	Students should be able to demonstrate: <div><div>1.</div><div>Knowledge of debates about the origin and nature of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Knowledge about the relationship between science fiction and broader societal contexts</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>The ability to identify and interpret different kinds of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>4.</div><div>The ability to compare different national traditions of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>5.</div><div>The ability to interpret primary and secondary sources</div></div> <div><div>6.</div><div>The ability to raise questions that enable an interpretation of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>7.</div><div>The ability to construct thesis-driven close readings of different forms of science fiction</div></div> <div><div>8.</div><div>The ability to create a coherent and persuasive written argument</div></div> <div><div>9.</div><div>The ability to construct clear and well-structured body paragraphs that develop an overall thesis</div></div> <div><div>10.</div><div>The ability to use proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and register</div></div> <div><div>11.</div><div>The ability to read a range of science fiction works at a fast pace</div></div>		
<b>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b> [Course Outcomes in brackets]	Participation 7.5% [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11] 2 papers: -4-page analysis paper (20%) [3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] -8-page argument-based research paper (40%) [1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] In-class quizzes 7.5% [3, 11] In-class final 15% [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11]		