
Science Fiction

Applied Science and Environmental Technology

Course Number: GEN1957	Co-Requisites: N/A	Pre-Requisites: N/A
Applicable Program(s): Multiple Programs	AAL: Multiple Levels	Core/Elective: Multiple Core/Elective
Prepared by:	Robert Willbond, Professor	
Approved by:	Rebecca Trueman PhD, Chair, Applied Science	
Approval Date:	Tuesday, June 5, 2018	
Approved for Academic Year:	2018-2019	
Normative Hours:	45.00	

Course Description

Science fiction is both a major genre of popular entertainment and an effective mode of social commentary. Students explore the formal conventions and the history of the genre, analyze a representative range of science fiction, and develop their critical appreciation of the role and place of science fiction in society. In addition to writing reflective and analytical assignments, students have an opportunity to create their own piece of science fiction.

General Education Theme Area(s)

This is a General Education course that supports learning in the following theme area(s): Arts in Society

Relationship to Essential Employability Skills

This course contributes to your program by helping you achieve the following Essential Employability Skills:

- EES 2 Respond to written, spoken or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication. (T, A,)
- EES 11 Take responsibility for one's own actions, decisions and consequences. (T, A,)

Course Learning Requirements/Embedded Knowledge and Skills

When you have earned credit for this course, you will have demonstrated the ability to:

1.) Develop critical reading and critical thinking skills.

Differentiate between surface reading and critical reading.

Describe the role of a variety of structural elements in texts, such as diction, point of view and organization.

Identify relationships between material found both in a text and outside a text.

Trace the development of ideas, arguments, texts and responses to their logical end.

Integrate research material with arguments to form effective and logical responses.

2.) Recognize and respond to the diversity of Science Fiction available.

Identify different Science Fiction forms.

Situate specific Science Fiction works and authors in their historical and genre context.

Knowledgeably discuss the history of Science Fiction.

Relate works of Science Fiction to one another, by recognizing shared themes, periods, and trends.

3.) Analyze the role of Science Fiction in contemporary culture.

Explain how Science Fiction acts as a medium for exploring and addressing important social, cultural, and political issues.

Explain how Science Fiction acts as a medium for representing scientific, technological, and environmental issues and problems.

Identify and explain other functions of Science Fiction in contemporary culture.

4.) Articulate informed, reasoned responses to representative works of Science Fiction.

Choose supporting material effectively.

Identify Science Fiction convention.

Write creative, persuasive, and analytical responses to Science Fiction.

Distinguish Science Fiction from other forms of imaginative and conventional fiction.

Evaluation/Earning Credit

The following list provides evidence of this course's learning achievements and the outcomes they validate:

Quiz(zes)/Test(s) (15%)

Validates Outcomes: CLR 1, CLR 2, CLR 3, CLR 4, EES 2

Discussion Forum (15%)

Validates Outcomes: CLR 2, CLR 3, CLR 4, EES 2, EES 11

Written Assignment(s) (35%)

Validates Outcomes: CLR 1, CLR 2, CLR 3, CLR 4, EES 2, EES 11

Assignment(s) (35%)

Validates Outcomes: CLR 1, CLR 2, CLR 3, CLR 4, EES 2, EES 11

Students are expected to meet evaluation and completion deadlines as stated in course outline and course section information documents. In circumstances where evaluation and/or completion deadlines are missed or student performance has been affected by a temporary or permanent disability (including mental health), interim or retroactive accommodations may be considered. In such instances, please consult your course faculty member. For other situations where deferral of evaluations may be warranted, please refer to college policy AA21.

Learning Resources

Required Text

Shippey, Tom. *The Oxford Book of Science Fiction Stories*. Toronto: Oxford UP, 2003.

Recommended Texts

Access to some supplementary materials will be provided to the student via the course site. These include a variety of written resources, as well as some audio and/or video resources.

Additional resources

Over the duration of the course students should also expect to refer to instances of Science Fiction available in the following formats:

Novels

Films/Videos

Television Shows

Graphic Novels

Magazines

Video Games

Some of these resources will be selected for students and access provided. In other cases, students may choose to select and procure their own resources.

Students may also conduct research on the internet and at the library.

Learning Activities

reading assignments

asynchronous online discussions

research of course-related material

- reviews of short stories of your choice
- online quizzes on reading assignments
- proposing and completing a major project of your choice (e.g. writing a short story)
- maintaining a reflective learning journal

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

Students who wish to apply for prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) need to demonstrate competency at a post-secondary level in all of the course learning requirements outlined above. Evidence of learning achievement for PLAR candidates includes:

- Other: Please consult the General Education Coordinator in your school and/or the PLAR Coordinator if you feel you are a candidate for PLAR.
- Portfolio

Grade Scheme

Final Grade	Mark Equivalent	Numeric Value	Final Grade	Mark Equivalent	Numeric Value
A+	90% - 100%	4.0	A	85% - 89%	3.8
A-	80% - 84%	3.6	B+	77% - 79%	3.3
B	73% - 76%	3.0	B-	70% - 72%	2.7
C+	67% - 69%	2.3	C	63% - 66%	2.0
C-	60% - 62%	1.7	D+	57% - 59%	1.4
D	53% - 56%	1.2	D-	50% - 52%	1.0
F	0% - 49%	0	FSP	0	0

Course Related Information

Please review the Brightspace shell for the course schedule, policies, and other information.

STUDENT ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

You are responsible for the following:

- attending to learning activities regularly;
- keeping track of all work you do in the course;
- knowing the due dates for assignments and meeting these dates;
- handing in assignments that are your own work.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Ordinary Circumstances

Regular learning activities, such as quizzes and discussion participation must be completed according to the course schedule.

Assignments must be submitted on or before the due date.

The instructor may, at his or her discretion, accept some assignments late, and assess a penalty.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Extraordinary Circumstances

AA21: Deferred Evaluation

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/policies/policy/aa21-deferred-evaluation/>

EXEMPTIONS:

Exemptions may be granted to students who have passed (with the minimum grade of C) an equivalent course at a post-secondary institution. Anyone wishing to apply for an exemption should submit an application to the Communications Department during the first week of classes. The deadline for applying for an exemption is the end of the third week of classes.

College Related Information

Email

Algonquin College provides all full-time students with an e-mail account. This is the address that will be used when the College, your professors, or your fellow students communicate important information about your program or course events. It is your responsibility to ensure that you know how to send and receive e-mail using your Algonquin account and to check it regularly.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment at the Centre for Accessible Learning to identify your needs. Ideally, this should be done within the first month of your program, so that a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) can be provided to your professors. If you are a returning student, please ensure that professors are given a copy of your LOA each semester.

Retroactive Accommodations

Students are expected to meet evaluation and completion deadlines as stated in course outline and course section information documents. In circumstances where evaluation and/or completion deadlines are missed or student performance has been affected by a temporary or permanent disability (including mental health), interim or retroactive accommodations may be considered. In such instances, please consult your course faculty member. For other situations where deferral of evaluations may be warranted, please refer to college policy AA21.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Adherence to acceptable standards of academic honesty is an important aspect of the learning process at Algonquin College. Academic work submitted by a student is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented by the student is his or her own, unless designated otherwise. For further details consult Algonquin College Policies AA18: Academic Dishonesty and Discipline and AA20: Plagiarism

Student Course Feedback

It is Algonquin College's policy to give students the opportunity to share their course experience by completing a student course feedback survey for each course they take. For further details consult Algonquin College Policy AA25: Student Course Feedback

Use of Electronic Devices in Class

With the proliferation of small, personal electronic devices used for communications and data storage, Algonquin College believes there is a need to address their use during classes and examinations. During classes, the use of such devices is disruptive and disrespectful to others. During examinations, the use of such devices may facilitate cheating. For further details consult Algonquin College Policy AA32: Use of Electronic Devices in Class

Transfer of Credit

It is the student's responsibility to retain course outlines for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

***Note:** It is the student's responsibility to refer to the Algonquin College Policies website for the most current information at <http://www.algonquincollege.com/policies/>*

Legend

Terms

- ALO: Aboriginal Learning Outcome
- Apprenticeship LO: Apprenticeship Learning Outcome
- CLR: Course Learning Requirement
- DPLO: Degree Program Learning Outcome
- EES: Essential Employability Skill
- EOP: Element of Performance
- GELO: General Education Learning Outcome
- LO: Learning Outcome
- PC: Program Competency
- PLA: Prior Learning Assessment
- PLAR: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
- VLO: Vocational Learning Outcome

Assessment Levels

- T: Taught
- A: Assessed
- CP: Culminating Performance