

## Syllabus - CRWN 80F -01 Science Fictions

Date Read before class

Watch before class

In-Class

### Reasons for Science Fiction/ History of SF

If you prefer to read paperback books, send an email to Ms. Patton ([mapatton@ucsc.edu](mailto:mapatton@ucsc.edu)) and she will get a copy to you.

June 25

H. G. Wells. Read Chapter 1 of Book 1 plus Chapters 1-5 of Book 2 of [War of the Worlds](#)[Links to an external site.](#) (1895-97)

H.G. Wells: skim Chapters 1-4 of [The Time Machine](#)[Links to an external site.](#) (1895)

A little bit of the history of SF

If you have any Sci Fi comics, please bring them to class. I have a few.

Films to look at scenes: *War of the Worlds*, *Superman*, first episode  
Opening scene of *Matrix*  
*Time Machine* film

### Structure of Science Fiction: Creating a Mythology

*Star Wars* and the Call to Adventure

June 27

Watch *Star Wars* - we will discuss ways to do this.

[Dune](#)[Links to an external site.](#) (1965) in Reader

*Back to the Future*, first 15 minutes

Ray Bradbury, "Sound of Thunder" in Reader

*Star Wars: A New Hope*

*Back to the Future* (#1)

Quiz #1

[Hero's Journey](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Dune opening](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Bene Gesserit](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Brave New](#)

[Jurassic Park](#)[Links to an](#)

July 2 **Purposes of SF: Critique / Raising consciousness**

Chapters 1 and 2 of Huxley's [Brave New World](#) [Links to an external site.](#) (1932)

[Brave New World](#) [Links to an external site.](#) - the film: If you like, you can watch the entire film

*Jurassic Park*

Watch Heinlein, [Starship Troopers](#) [Links to an external site.](#) (1959) film (Netflix)

[World](#) [Links to an external site.](#) (1932)  
[Starship Troopers](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

*Self-referential SF:*

[external site.](#)



Quiz #2

July 4 Holiday

**Purpose: Ask the Big Questions**

Arthur C. Clarke, "The Nine Billion Names of God" (1953) in Reader

Asimov, "The Last Question" (1956) in Reader.

July 9

Also read "[Robot Dreams](#)" [Download Robot Dreams](#)" (handout)

Read online Chapters 1 and 2 of [Three Laws Lethal](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Quiz #3

*I, Robot* film

Last episode of *Battlestar Galactica*

July 11 **SF Diversifies and Changes the Narrative**

Joanna Russ, "[When It Changed](#)" [Links to an external site.](#) (1972) in Reader

Ursula K. LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (1969) in

Quiz #4

Also: *What Is Missing?* One hour of the class - half the students.

Reader and part of *The Dispossessed* (1974) in Reader

### Radical Shifts

Samuel Delaney, "[Aye, and Gomorrah](#)" [Links to an external site.](#) (1967) online

July 16 Octavia Butler's [Kindred Links to an external site.](#) (1979), Prologue and "The River." If you can, read "The Fire" as well. *Bladerunner* (1982) Quiz #5

Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) in Reader

Watch the first half of *Bladerunner*

### Moving the Heart of the Reader

Liu Cixin, "[The Circle](#)" [Download "The Circle"](#) (2016)

July 18 and "[Moonlight](#)," [Download "Moonlight"](#), both on Canvas [Three Body Problem Links to an external site.](#) online. Read Chs. 1 and 2

Quiz #6

Also: What is Missing? One hour of the class - half the students.

Finish *Bladerunner*

July 23 **Moving the Heart of the Reader** *Arrival* Quiz #7

Ken Liu, "The Paper Menagerie" (2011) and "Mono no aware" (2012), both in Reader.

Ted Chiang, "[The Story of Your Life](#)" [Links to an external site.](#) (1998) online

Read online:

[Hunger Games Links to an external site.](#)

[site.](#) (2012), Ch. 1

## Address Current Issues or avoid them

Kim Stanley Robinson – Ch. 1

[Ministry for the Future](#) [Links to an external site.](#) (2020). The most depressing reading of the class BUT Robinson takes the rest of the novel to solve the problem of global warming.

July  
25

[Gideon the 9th](#) [Links to an external site.](#) by Tamsyn Muir, Chs. 1-3 This is somewhat confusing. It's in a solar system with 9 planets.

El-Mohtar and Gladstone (2019), pp. 1-37: This is VERY confusing!

[This Is How You Lose the Time War](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

July  
27

Midnight: Paper is due.

Quiz #8

**Last 1.5 hours of class:**

**Peer Editing of drafts of your papers**

## Grading:

### 500 possible points

Every class day after Day One: quiz on the required reading, sometimes alone, but more often in groups of 2 or 3. 25 points each.

25 points X 8 = 200 points

**50 points for opening the class one day**, with one or two other people. You can give a quiz, ask questions for discussion, set up a debate, or . . . (your idea).

**50 points:** What is Missing? *Tell us the plot of a piece of SF (novel, short story, comic, manga, or film) which was omitted during this class and which should have been included. Tell how it connects (or doesn't connect) to the class and why you chose it.* You may do this on either July 11 or July 18.

**Attendance and participation – 50**

**Participation in peer editing on last day: 25 points**

**Paper due 2 days after last class: 125 points.**

You can write your own science fiction of any style - 75 points. Then analyze the ways in which it connects to/ references/ critiques other science fiction writings/ films - 50 points.

OR you can write a comparison of two SF texts that we read or watched, focusing on world creation/ estrangement effects 25, use of / resistance to generic expectations 25, character/ plot/ style comparison 25, and analysis of the period/ society in which each text was written - how the texts speak to that historical/ social moment (if they do) 25, and finally, how reading those texts made you think of other stories, novels, or films that were used in our class (25). If you would rather analyze using other categories, just check with me first.

**A - 450-500**

**B - 400-449**

**C - 350-399**

**D - 300-349**

**F - 0-299**