

Montgomery County Community College  
 ENG 245  
 Science Fiction  
 3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a survey of the works of distinguished science fiction writers from Jules Verne to the present. Novels and short stories by writers such as H.G. Wells, Isaac Asimov, Kurt Vonnegut, Robert Heinlein, Arthur Clarke and Ray Bradbury will be read and discussed. Discussions will be aimed at determining the specific characteristics of the genre and its relationship to fantasy and traditional fiction.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- ENG 101 English Composition I with a minimum grade of "C"

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Discuss characteristics of literature that impact enjoyment of reading.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
2. Verbalize an increase in his/her self-awareness, through a development of their critical abilities.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Discuss the relationship between the past and contemporary societal views in literature.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
4. Analyze examples of literature for excellence.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
5. Describe how science fiction has influenced and been influenced by the currents of feeling that have produced “Mainstream” literature.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
6. Inspect the vitality and validity of science fiction as a literary and philosophical genre by discussing the nature of plot, character, scene and effect.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. The Rise and Fall of the Pulp Magazine
2. The Golden Age of the 30's and 40's
3. The New Man of the 60's
4. Attitudes toward Science Fiction
5. Science Fiction as Distinct from Fantasy

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Novels by Huxley, Wells, Orwell, Heinlein, Clarke, Haldeman, Farmer, Vonnegut, Wylie, Zelazny, Finney, Bradbury, Trout, Burroughs (both Edgar Rice and William).

Short stories by all of the above in volumes edited by Harlan Ellison and Harry Harrison.

Films: *The Man Who Created Miracles*; *King Kong*; *2001: A Space Odyssey*; *Fahrenheit 451*; *Silent Running*; *Logan's Run*; *Star Trek*.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Don Block Date: 1984  
Reviewed by: Lynne Clark Date: 12/1994  
Reviewed by: Bonnie B. Finkelstein, Ph.D. Date: 6/1998

Revised by: Timothy Connelly Date: 12/2012  
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:  
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 1/28/2013

Revised by: Diane McDonald Date: 2/27/2018  
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 2/28/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*