

ENGLISH 22: FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION

Spring Semester 2014, Sec. 2, code #20387

San José State University

Thursdays, 12:00-2:45 PM, BBC 222

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Office Hours: R 11:00-12:00

R 3:00-4:00 p.m., and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 22 surveys important works of science fiction and fantasy to understand them as expressions of human intellect and imagination; to comprehend their historical and cultural contexts; and to recognize their diverse cultural traditions. Both contemporary and historical works will be studied, with an emphasis on critical appreciation. English 22 fulfills the lower division GE requirement in Arts and Letters (C2).

FORMAT:

Lecture, discussion, small group work, with film and other presentations.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*.

Capek, Karl. *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)*.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*.

Chiang, Ted. "[Understand](#)."

Gaiman, *Death: The High Cost of Living*,

Gibson, William. "[Johnny Mnemonic](#)."

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *Herland*.

Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Lathe of Heaven*.

Lewis, C. S. *Out of the Silent Planet*.

Moore, Alan, et. al., *V for Vendetta*.

Orwell, George. *1984*.

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit*.

Wells, H. G. *The Time Machine*.

A FEW SUGGESTED FOUNDATIONAL FANTASY & SF TEXTS:

Asimov, Isaac. *Foundation Trilogy*.

Beckford, William. *Vathek*.

Beowulf.

Bester, Alfred. *The Stars My Destination*.

Graham, Kenneth. *The Wind in the Willows*.

Herbert, Frank. *Dune*.

Malory, *Morte d' Arthur*.

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*.

Verne, Julius. *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

White, T. H. *The Sword in the Stone* and *The Once and Future King*.

GRADING:

Specific grading criteria for assignments are indicated in the descriptions below. Late papers and make-up exams will normally be lowered one full grade unless you have made prior arrangements or provide evidence of an emergency. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU [Catalog](#) ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A= excellent; B= above average; C= average; D= below average; F= failure. Courses graded according to the A, B, C, No Credit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC (No Credit) shall replace D or F. In such classes, NC shall also substitute for W (Withdrawal) because neither grade (NC or W) affects students' GPA. In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of the ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

Course grades will be weighted:

*Course goals are linked to assignments
in the calendar.*

Classwork, Quizzes, & Participation	20%
Two Exercises	20%
Essay	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY and AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

See University [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) (strictures against cheating, copying, submitting work done in previous courses, and plagiarizing). The work you present in this course must be your own. I will lower grades or give a failing grade for the course, and report infractions to the Dean of Student Services. If you need accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center to establish record of their disability.

COURSE GOALS (linked to assignments in the calendar):

- 1) examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination and recognize how they illuminate enduring human concerns;
- 2) respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses;
- 3) write clearly and effectively
- 4) understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created
- 5) recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

ASSIGNMENTS:**Classwork, Quizzes, and Participation:**

Participation in discussions, small group work, and completion of quizzes and worksheets distributed in class. Grading criteria: 1) knowledge of texts as demonstrated by comments, questions, and answers on quizzes, 2) demonstrated responsibility in meeting course deadlines and requirements, and 3) participation in small-group discussions as observed by the instructor.

Exercises:

Movie Review: Review a movie adaptation of a Sci-Fi or Fantasy text in a short essay (2 pp.) What has been lost or gained in the movie version? Grading Criteria: Demonstrated knowledge of the Science Fiction or Fantasy **movie and text** through citing examples and making logical arguments; correct English usage and style, clear and coherent writing. Clear your choice with the instructor. See calendar for due date.

Short Story with Rationale: (3-4 pp. total). Write a short piece of Science Fiction or Fantasy, (2-3 pp.), choosing a specific genre (mythic fantasy, time travel story, etc.). You may want to model your work on a particular writer (Tolkien, Wells, Lewis, Le Guin, etc.) Grading Criteria: Knowledge of a particular genre of Science Fiction or Fantasy writing through use of its conventions in your story; correct English usage and style. Write an additional short (1 p.) rationale explaining which elements of SF or Fantasy you included in your story. See calendar for due date.

Essay:

A 3-4 pp. essay based on library research into the background of a work by a writer we are studying this semester. *“Background” means biography, critical analysis (in essays or books), historical background, and other information that illuminates the literary work.* Essay must have bibliography with five items and make use of quotations from research with proper citations. Grading criteria: inclusion of at least five items in your bibliography, specific citation of sources, using the simple MLA parenthetical note system, knowledge and understanding of the texts discussed as evidenced by demonstrated by coherent clear writing, logical paragraphing, and correctness of English usage. See calendar for due date.

Midterm Examination:

Written answers to questions meant to engage you in further integrating and developing concepts, arguments, and strategies with which the course has dealt to that point. Grading Criteria: knowledge and understanding of the concepts, texts and authors covered in the course up to that date, demonstrated by detailed, coherent responses to the questions, clarity and correctness of English usage. *Dictionaries permitted. No notes or books.*

Final Examination:

Written answers to questions meant to engage you in further integrating and developing concepts, arguments, and strategies with which the course has dealt. Grading Criteria: knowledge and understanding of the concepts, texts and authors covered after the midterm, demonstrated by detailed, coherent responses to the questions, clarity and correctness of English usage. *Dictionaries permitted. No notes or books.*

ENGLISH 22: CALENDAR

- Jan. 23: Introduction: Defining Fantasy and Science Fiction.
- Jan. 30: [*Frankenstein*](#).
MOVIE REVIEW TEXT CHOICE DUE.
TAKE HOME QUIZ DUE. (Goals 1, 5)
- Feb. 6: Wells, *The Time Machine*.
- Feb. 13: Gilman, *Herland*.
- Feb. 20: Tolkien, *The Hobbit*.
- Feb. 27: Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet*.
MOVIE REVIEW DUE. (Goals 1, 2, 3)
- Mar. 6: Capek, *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)*.
- Mar. 13: Asimov, *I, Robot*.
- Mar. 20: **MIDTERM EXAMINATION. (Goals 3, 4, 5)**
- Mar. 27: **SPRING BREAK**
- April 4: Orwell, *1984*.
SHORT STORY & RATIONALE DUE. (Goals 1,2, 3)
- April 11: Card, *Ender's Game*.
- April 18: Le Guin, *The Lathe of Heaven*.
- April 25: Moore, et. al., *V for Vendetta*. Gaiman, *Death: The High Cost of Living*,
- May 1: Gibson, ["Johnny Mnemonic."](#) Chiang ["Understand."](#)
- May 8: Review and Practice for Final Examination.
ESSAY DUE. (Goals 2, 3)
- May 20: TUESDAY: FINAL EXAMINATION, 9:45 - Noon. (Goals 3, 4, 5)**