

## San José State University

### ENGL 22: Fantasy and Science Fiction, Spring Semester, 2018

#### Section 1, Code: 21144

#### *Course and Contact Information*

<b>Instructor:</b>	(Malcolm) Paul Douglass
<b>Office Location:</b>	Department of English and Comparative Literature, FO 108
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<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	TTH 10:30 - 11:45 AM
<b>Office Hours:</b>	T 15:00-16:00 and by appointment
<b>Classroom:</b>	Boccardo Business Center, Room 130
<b>Graduate Assistant:</b>	Jane Danen ( <a href="mailto:jane.danen@sjsu.edu">jane.danen@sjsu.edu</a> ).

#### *Course Format*

Lecture, Discussion, Small Group Activities.

#### *Course Description*

Students will examine works of literary fantasy and science fiction 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.

#### **GE Learning Outcomes (GELOs) Letters courses will enable students to...**

Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns; respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses; write clearly and effectively; and recognize the role of diversity in culture and society. Thus, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Explain how major works of Fantasy and Science Fiction illuminate enduring human concerns, satisfied by responses orally and in writing, including in- and out-of-class discussions, quizzes, free responses, and tests.**
- 2) Link personal and research-based responses to the content and style of major works of Fantasy and Science Fiction, by writing both responses and a research-based essay.**
- 3) Write more effective academic arguments, through essays written for this class.**
- 4) Explain their views of the role of diversity in culture and society by reflecting orally and in writing on this aspect of works of Fantasy and Science Fiction.**

#### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

In addition to the General Education Learning Outcomes, English 22 has the goals of enlarging students' awareness of the possibilities of language and literature to enrich their lives, and to find

pleasure as well as challenge in the activity of interpretation—to see interpretation as a creative response to the stimulus of the works being read and discussed. Thus, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) **Respond creatively to literary texts, (short story assignment).**
- 2) **Compare and contrast a work’s effectiveness when it is translated from book to movie, (short essay).**

### ***Required Texts/Readings***

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*. Spectra 978-0553294385  
Butler, Octavia. [“Bloodchild.”](#) Online.  
Capek, Karel. *R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots)*. Penguin 978-0141182087  
Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Del Rey 978-0345404473  
———. *The Man in the High Castle*.  
Gaiman, Neil. *Sandman: Season of Mists*. Vertigo 978-1563890413  
Gibson, William. [“Johnny Mnemonic.”](#) Online.  
Kress, Nancy. *Yesterday’s Kin*. Tachyon 978-1616961756  
Le Guin, Ursula K. *A Wizard of Earthsea*. Houghton Mifflin 978-0547722023  
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Broadview 9781554811038 (Also at [Frankenstein.](#))  
Tiptree, James Jr. [Alice Sheldon]. [“The Girl Who Was Plugged In.”](#) Online.  
Wells, H. G. *The Time Machine*. Dover 978-0486284729 (Also at [Time Machine.](#))

### ***Course Requirements and Assignments***

NOTE: Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities.

- **Classwork, Quizzes, and Participation:** Participation in discussions, small group work, and completion of quizzes (on-line and in-class) and worksheets. Grading criteria: 1) knowledge of texts demonstrated by comments, questions, and answers on quizzes, 2) meeting course deadlines and requirements, and 3) participation in small-group discussions.
- **Movie Review:** Discuss an approved movie adaptation of a Sci-Fi or Fantasy text (2-3 pp.) Answer this question: “What has been lost or gained in the movie version?” Grading Criteria: 1) knowledge of the Science Fiction or Fantasy **movie and text** through citing examples and making logical arguments, 2) correct English usage and style, clear and coherent writing. MLA style bibliography and citations. Calendar lists due date.
- **Short Story with Rationale:** (3-4 pp. total). Write a short piece of Science Fiction or Fantasy, (2-3 pp.), choosing a genre (high fantasy, time travel, etc.). You may model your work on a particular writer (Tolkien, Wells, L’Engle, Le Guin, Asimov, Tiptree, etc.) Grading Criteria: 1) Knowledge of a particular genre of Science Fiction or Fantasy writing through use of its conventions in your story, 2) Correct usage and style for dialogue and description. Write an additional short (1 p.) rationale explaining which elements of SF or Fantasy you included in your story. Calendar lists due dates.
- **Essay:** A 3-4 pp. essay based on library research into the background of a work on the syllabus, including biography, critical analysis (in essays or books), or historical background that illuminates the literary work. Essay must have quote from research with citations. Grading criteria: 1) at least five items in your bibliography, 2) citation of sources

using MLA parenthetical system, 3) knowledge and understanding of texts demonstrated by clear writing, logical paragraphing, and correctness of English usage. Calendar lists due dates. Note: *Library Liaison for the Department of English* is [Toby Matoush](#).

- **Midterm Examination:** In-class essay and short-answer questions that 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 concepts, texts and authors, demonstrated by detailed, coherent responses to the questions, and clarity and correctness of English usage. *Dictionaries permitted. No notes or books.*
- **Final Examination: On-line multiple choice and take-home essay 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 in the entire course, demonstrated by correct responses to multiple choice questions, and detailed, coherent responses to essay questions, and clarity and correctness of English usage. *Dictionaries permitted. No notes or books.*

### ***Grading Information (Assignments Linked to CLOs and GELOs)***

Course grades will be weighted per the chart below. Specific grading criteria for assignments are indicated in the descriptions. Late papers and make-up exams will normally be lowered one full grade unless you make prior arrangements or provide evidence of an emergency. By department policy, in all English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. 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. For further details on essay grading, please check the [grading criteria page](#) of the [Engl-22 website](#).

Classwork, Quizzes, & Participation	(GELO 1, 2, 4)	25%
Movie Review	(GELO 3, CLO 2)	10%
Short Story	(GELO 3, CLO 1)	5%
Essay	(GELO 2, 3)	20%
Midterm Examination	(GELO 1, 4)	20%
Final Examination	(GELO 1, 4)	20%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>100%</b>

Extra Credit Policy: You may earn the equivalent of two days of participation credit by attending a literary event on campus and turning in an informal reflection on the experience, including making a connection to reading ideas discussed in class (250-300 words). *Deadline for all extra credit work is the final class session of the semester.* For major campus literary events, check <http://www.litart.org/>.  
Classroom Protocol: Come prepared to discuss the reading, silence cell phones, stay in the classroom until the day's session is over, use laptops and tablets only to access texts or make notes.

### ***University Policies***

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. are available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## ENGL 22 Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
Jan. 25	<b>Introduction to the course:</b> <i>Frankenstein</i> --the Genealogy of Fantasy and Sci-Fi
Jan. 30	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (1818) (Volume 1, through page 110)
Feb. 1	<i>Frankenstein</i> . (Volume 2, through page 160)
Feb. 6	<i>Frankenstein</i> . (Volume 3, through page 221)
Feb. 8	<b>High Fantasy:</b> Le Guin, <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> . (1968) (Chapters 1-4)
Feb. 13	<i>Wizard of Earthsea</i> . (Chapters 5-7)
Feb. 15	<i>Wizard of Earthsea</i> . (Chapters 8-10)
Feb. 20	<b>Syncretic Fantasy:</b> Gaiman, <i>Sandman: Season of Mists</i> . (1990) (Episodes 0-2)
Feb. 22	<i>Sandman: Season of Mists</i> . (Episodes 3-5)
Feb. 27	<b>Robot Fantasies:</b> Capek, Karl. <i>R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)</i> . (1920)
March 1	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i> . (1950) (Intro. and Stories 1-3)
March 6	<i>I, Robot</i> . (Stories 4-6) <b>MOVIE REVIEW TEXT CHOICE DUE.</b>
March 8	<i>I, Robot</i> . (Stories 7-9)
March 13	<b>Time Travel Fantasy:</b> Wells, <i>Time Machine</i> . (1895) (Chapters 1-5)
March 15	<i>Time Machine</i> . (Chapter 6 to the end) <b>SHORT STORY DUE.</b>
March 20	Review for Midterm Examination. <b>RESEARCH ESSAY TOPIC CHOICE DUE.</b>
March 22	<b>MIDTERM.</b>
March 27	Spring Recess
March 29	Spring Recess
April 3	<b>Wrinkles in Time-Travel:</b> Dick, <i>Man in the High Castle</i> . (1962) (Chapters 1-6)
April 5	<i>Man in the High Castle</i> . (Chapters 7-11)
April 10	<i>Man in the High Castle</i> . (Chapters 12-15)
April 12	<b>Androids:</b> Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> (1968) (Chapters 1-7)
April 17	<i>Do Androids Dream. . . ?</i> (Chapters 8-14)
April 19	<i>Do Androids Dream. . . ?</i> (Chapters 15- 22) <b>MOVIE REVIEW DUE.</b>
April 24	<b>Surrogates:</b> Tiptree. " <a href="#">Girl Who Was Plugged In</a> ." (1974)
April 26	<b>Cyberpunk:</b> Gibson, William. " <a href="#">Johnny Mnemonic</a> ." (1981)
May 1	<b>Alien Encounters:</b> Butler, " <a href="#">Bloodchild</a> ." (1984)
May 3	Kress, <i>Yesterday's Kin</i> . (2014) (Read through page 106)
May 8	<i>Yesterday's Kin</i> . (Finish reading the book)
May 10	Review for Final Examination. <b>RESEARCH ESSAY DUE.</b>
May 18	<b>TAKE-HOME AND ONLINE FINAL EXAM MATERIALS DUE.</b>