

FYS: Science Fiction

FYS 101L-126 • Spring 2018

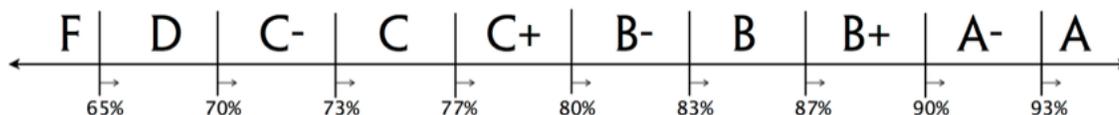
-Background

When and where	Wednesdays 8:00am to 9:15am in LT 006 Fridays 9:30am to 12:15pm in the LT Screening Room (LT 019)
Required Texts	<i>The Distance Between Us</i> ISBN 978-1451661774 by Reyna Grande <i>Masterpieces: The Best Science Fiction of the 20th Century</i> ISBN 978-0441011339 edited by Orson Scott Card
Web site	http://www.labouseur.com/courses/scifi/
Instructor	Alan G. Labouseur Alan.Labouseur@Marist.edu Hancock 3007 845-575-3832 Marist phone (Office hours are posted.) 845-440-1102 home office phone



-Grading

Letter Grades



You can earn up to 1000 points over the course of the semester, broken down as follows: (These weights are subject to minor variation.)

Writing:	<i>Distance Between Us</i> essay	5.0%	50 points - bring your book and notes
Writing:	Reaction papers	15.0%	150 points - 3 at 50 points each
Writing:	Research paper	25.0%	250 points - in a few pieces
Presenting:	Introduce yourself	0.0%	no points - 1 minute (not graded)
Presenting:	Teach us something	5.0%	50 points - 2 minutes
Presenting:	Article summary	15.0%	150 points - 3 minutes
Presenting:	Media Project	20.0%	200 points - 10 minutes (teams)
	Final Exam	10.0%	100 points - comprehensive exam
	Attendance and Participation	2.5%	25 points for quality and quantity
	Laziness and Whining	2.5%	25 points for not (lazy or whining)

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-Objectives and Assessment

Our students will . . .

GENERAL

- analyze science fiction films, television, literary works, and historical texts
- understand key terms, questions, and insights related to science fiction.
- develop useful ideas for class discussion before the class meets.
- developing self-directed, creative research projects.
- harvest useful ideas from class discussions and presentations to enhance their own projects.
- have a good deal of fun

Assessment

Final exam,
class discussions,
reaction papers,
research papers,
presentations

INFORMATION LITERACY

- be able to tell the difference between data and information.
- determine when information is needed and effectively find it using a variety of reference sources.
- use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- locate and use library collections and services as well as other search tools and databases.
- evaluate information quality and determine its point of view.

Class discussions,
special activities
with the Library,
research paper

WRITING

- demonstrate effective writing skills and processes by employing the rhetorical techniques of academic writing, including invention, research, critical analysis, evaluation, revision, and the serial comma.
- use language to express ideas clearly in order to create and maintain interest, and to enhance the student's credibility.
- effectively utilize the conventions of standard written English.
- incorporate and document appropriate sources in accordance with the formatting style proper for the discipline.
- develop and support a relevant and informed thesis or point of view that is appropriate for its audience, purpose, discipline, and theme.

Reaction papers,
research paper,
Essay... all with
feedback from
Jeff and Alan

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- gain experience making both formal and informal presentations.
- better understand the role that effective presentations have in public and professional contexts
- identify and critically evaluate the quality of claims, explanation, support, and delivery in public and professional discourse, and understanding the factors influencing a speaker's credibility.
- develop audience-centered presentations meeting concrete professional objectives.
- deliver multiple well-rehearsed and polished presentations meeting time, content, and interactive requirements.

Making several
presentations



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-Planned Schedule

#	Readings	Topics and Activities	Due Wednesday
1	<i>The Road Not Taken</i> Harry Turtledove (1985)	Wednesday 1/17 Snow Day Friday 1/19 Interstellar Travel : <i>Forbidden Planet</i> (1956) Star Trek TOS - <i>By Any Other Name</i> (1968)	—
2	<i>The Distance Between Us</i>	Wednesday 1/24 Introduction / In-class workshop from the Writing Center Friday 1/26 Religion vs. Science : TNG - <i>Who Watches the Watchers</i> (1989), DS9 - <i>In the Hands of the Prophets</i> (1993), <i>Stargate - Red Sky</i> (2001)	Reaction 1a (Interstellar Travel)
3	<i>All You Zombies</i> Robert A. Heinlein (1959)	Wednesday 1/31 Presentations - <i>Introduce Yourself (one minute)</i> Friday 2/2 Time Travel : <i>Back to the Future</i> (1985)	Reaction 1b
4	<i>The Distance Between Us</i>	Wednesday 2/7 Snow Day Friday 2/9 War, Genocide, and Forgiveness : DS9 - <i>Duet</i> (1993), <i>In the Pale Moonlight</i> (1998), <i>Dogs of War</i> (1999)	Reaction 2a (Time Travel)
5	<i>Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed</i> Ray Bradbury (1949)	Wednesday 2/14 Special Presentation in class: <i>Power Presenting</i> Friday 2/16 Alien Contact : <i>Contact</i> (1997)	Reaction 2b
6	<i>Inconstant Moon</i> Larry Niven (1971)	Wednesday 2/21 In-class essay: <i>The Distance Between Us</i> (bring your book and notes) Friday 2/23 More Alien Contact : <i>The Twilight Zone - To Serve Man</i> (1962) <i>Alien</i> (1979)	—
7	<i>Robot Dreams</i> Isaac Asimov (1986)	Wednesday 2/28 Special Presentation: <i>Introduction to The Research Process in LB 302</i> Friday 3/2 Snow Day	—
8	<i>The Tunnel under the World</i> Frederik Pohl (1955)	Wednesday 3/7 Snow Day Friday 3/9 Identity : TNG - <i>Measure of a Man</i> (1989) & <i>The Quality of Life</i> (1992) TOS - <i>What are Little Girls Made of?</i> (1966)	—
9	—	Wednesday 3/14 No class meeting - Spring Break Friday 3/16 No class meeting - Spring Break	—
10	—	Wednesday 3/21 Special Presentation: <i>Finding, Evaluating, & Citing Sources in LB 302</i> Friday 3/23 Utopia or Dystopia? : <i>Logan's Run</i> (1976)	Reaction 3 (Identity Questions)
11	—	Wednesday 3/28 Special Presentation: <i>Academic Planning in LT 019</i> Friday 3/30 No class meeting - Easter Break	—
12	—	Wednesday 4/4 Discuss research paper / Presentations - <i>Teach Us (two minutes)</i> Friday 4/6 Apocalyptic Sci-Fi : <i>Planet of the Apes</i> (1968)	Research Paper ideas
13	—	Wednesday 4/11 Presentations - <i>Article Summary (three minutes)</i> Friday 4/13 Revenge : <i>Ender's Game</i> (2013)	Research Paper outline, intro, conclusion
		Tuesday 4/17 Optional - Research Paper look-over in my office (8am to 9am)	—
14		Wednesday 4/18 Media Presentation Example / Make teams and talk topics Friday 4/20 Obsession : <i>Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan</i> (1982)	Finished Research Paper
15		Wednesday 4/25 Discuss the media presentation / Watch something Friday 4/27 Comedy in Sci Fi : TOS - <i>The Trouble with Tribbles</i> (1967) <i>Galaxy Quest</i> (1999)	Media Presentation progress
16		Wednesday 5/2 Media Presentation rehearsals Friday 5/4 Bringing it all together: <i>Moon</i> (2009)	Media Presentation progress
17		Wednesday 5/9 Media Project Team Presentations at 8am Short (yet comprehensive) Final Exam	Media Presentation