

Film Studies FILM 305.15 L01
Topic in Genre
International Science Fiction Since 1965
Winter 2012
Block Week Mon-Fri. 9:00-17:00

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri Jan.02-06, 2012 8:30-8:55
and 17:00-17:30.

Course Description

This course is an examination of the science fiction genre as it has developed internationally over the past 40 years. Because this genre has been a staple of film since the silent era it has developed a number of conventions, which this course will explore in detail, including the relationship of SF film to SF literature and to other film genres. However, the conventions of genre are challenged by the distinct cultural grammars of diverse national cinemas and this course seeks to explore this site of contestation and how a genre is impacted by national cultural norms. The course also has a historical dimension since it will study the evolution of the genre within national cinemas over a 40 year period and how technological change both within film (special effects) and in society in general (digital universe) has changed the content and the form of the genre. The films studied will be British, American, Japanese, Australian, Russian and South African with an emphasis on Canadian Science Fiction films.

This course is an intensive workshop-style experience with the viewing of 12 films over 5 days that will require stamina and pacing to maximize the learning experience.

Additional Information

Pre-session required reading is J.P. Telotte, *Science Fiction Film* (2001) which is available on-line as a U of C Library INTERNET book. This book is to be read prior to the commencement of the course.

Objectives of the Course

To guide students to an understanding of genre and the theory of genre.

To introduce students to science fiction as a genre in both film and literature.

To develop a cultural studies approach to science fiction film using the concept of national cinemas.

To relate science fiction as a genre to other film and literary genres.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptop computers and other similar electronic devices are allowed in the class for making notes only. They are not to be used for non-academic and non- course-related purposes during the lecture and the lab.

Textbooks and Readings:

J.P. Telotte, *Science Fiction Film* (2001) PN1995.9 S26 INTERNET

A list of required daily readings available on-line will be posted with in the Detailed Course Outline available on Blackboard after Dec. 20.

Assignments and Evaluation

Daily Assignments: 60%

There will be four daily assignments (Mon-Thurs) which will given to the students at the end of each class. Each assignment will be worth 15% of the final grade for a total of 60%. Each assignment will be due at the beginning of class the next day (9:00 a.m.). Each assignment will be a mini-research paper (600-800 words). Each assignment must meet the criteria for submissions outlined in the Detailed Course Outline, which will be available after Dec. 20 in Blackboard.

Research Paper: 40%

Students are required to submit a 2500-3000 word research paper by 16:00 (4 pm) on Wednesday January 11, 2012. The research paper will be on one of the films viewed in the course and will consist of four parts: discussion of the film and the filmmaker's history; discussion of how the film relates to the four vectors discussed in the course; comparison of the film to another film in the course; discussion of the importance or lack of importance of this film in the SF film canon. The research paper must meet the criteria for submissions outlined in the Detailed Course Outline, which will be available after Dec. 20 in Blackboard.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Failure to complete any assignment on time without documentation of a medical emergency or equivalent reason will result in a reduced grade. Any assignments submitted after 4 p.m. on January 11, 2012 will receive a grade of 0 except in the case of a medical emergency.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

| | Grading Scale |
|-----|---------------|
| A+ | 96-100 |
| A | 90-95.99 |
| A - | 85-89.99 |
| B+ | 80-84.99 |
| B | 75-79.99 |
| B- | 70-74.99 |
| C+ | 65-69.99 |
| C | 60-64.99 |
| C- | 55-59.99 |
| D+ | 53-54.99 |
| D | 50-52.99 |
| F | 0-49 |

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 4th floor, efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss

your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The Detailed Course Outline will be available to students in Blackboard on Dec. 20, 2011.