



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

COURSE TITLE: SPECULATIVE FICTION I: Science Fiction			
Course Number	ENGLISH 393	FALL 2019	
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Vivek Shraya	Email	vivek.shraya@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Email is the best way to contact me. Although I do my best to respond to emails promptly, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. I do not typically respond to emails on weekends or after 5pm. I will not summarize class discussion or lectures through email—if you miss class, please gather any missing information from your fellow students. Email is not a substitute for attending class or office hours.		
Office Location	SS 1046	Telephone No:	220-3002
Office Hours	Mondays 11am-12pm (or by appointment)		
Class Dates/Times/Location	MW / 2:00-3:15PM / SS 109		

Course description:

In this course, we will explore the world of contemporary science fiction through close reading of texts (short story collections, novels, graphic novels, and personal essays) by Indigenous and Black writers and writers of colour. How does centering the voice of “the alien,” which is so often synonymous with “the other,” challenge popular, white and/or Western ideas of science fiction and about science itself? Subverting a question that Octavia E. Butler was often posed—“What good is science fiction to Black people?”—we will analyze the ways that science fiction is mobilized by Indigenous and Black writers and writers of colour as a radical tool for ingenuity, reflection, criticism and hope.

Note: Given the course description, race (i.e. whiteness, blackness, Indigeneity, and of-colourness) and settler colonialism will be discussed.

There are no course pre-requisites for this course.

Texts and readings:

- Everyone's a Alien When Ur a Alien Too* - Jomny Sun
- Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time: An Indigenous LGBT Sci-Fi Anthology* - Hope Nicholson
- The Marrow Thieves* - Cherie Dimaline
- Bloodchild and Other Stories* - Octavia E. Butler
- Stories of Your Life and Others* - Ted Chiang
- The Left Hand of Darkness* - Ursula K. Le Guin
- Frankenstein* - Mary Shelley

Assignments and Evaluation:

In-Class Response Papers 10% (x6, approx. 250 words per paper)

Every class will begin with a quote or question directly pulled from an assigned text or related article displayed on the board that will be used as a ten-minute writing prompt to explore your analysis and reflections on the text that is to be discussed that day. This will be followed by a broader discussion with your peers. I will request for six of these papers to be handed in shortly thereafter. Each paper will be graded out of 2 and will count for 2% of your final grade:

0 – Not submitted on time / incomplete

1 – Mostly summary of text / surface analysis / partly complete

2 – Complete and concise / insightful analysis / substantial reflection

Your lowest grade out of the 6 papers will be dropped and the maximum you can earn is 10%. This means if you have to be absent on one of the days that a paper is handed in, you still have the opportunity to earn the full 10% so there will not be an opportunity to submit a make up assignments. Papers submitted by email or by someone else on your behalf will not be accepted. No exceptions will be permitted.

Intertextual Assignments 40% (x 2, approx. 750 words per paper)

Each assignment will compare and contrast two primary texts as a way to critically think about the connections between each of the texts in the course, and class discussions.

Midterm 25%

This exam consists of short answer questions about the assigned texts and ideas discussed during the first half of the course.

Final Exam 25%

This is a Registrar scheduled exam (Calendar, Academic Schedule; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>).

It will consist of short answer questions about the assigned texts and ideas discussed during the second half of the course. **Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period December 9 – December 19, 2019.** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Assignment Policies

- Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor during class time. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a 5% for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Extensions are only granted under exceptional circumstances.
- Students must complete all (or specific) assignments in order to receive a passing grade on the course
- Late assignments **will not** be accepted electronically.
- There are no extra-credit assignments.

Grading system:

In this course, the midterm and final exam, and all assignments will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades. I round grades upwards if they are within 0.50% of a higher grade. Please do not contact me to request an adjustment to your final grade unless (1) you suspect I have made an error, or (2) you are planning to formally appeal your results.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices and Internet Use:

Students are asked to turn off all electronic devices with the exception of laptops. If you need your phone to be turned on because you have children or need to remain in contact with someone because of a medical emergency, please inform me at the beginning of the class and please leave the cell phone on **vibrate**. Students who consult non-course related content on laptops (i.e. checking Facebook, sending personal messages, etc.) during class will be asked to leave.

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 possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here:

https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Student Accommodations:**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

“Safewalk” Program:

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 pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/role>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference – please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
 - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
 - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
 - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
 - d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.