

WIKI

Science Fiction and Fantasy (English 1654)
Spring 2010



What is a Wiki?

According to Wikipedia, a wiki is “ a website that allows the easy creation and editing of any number of interlinked web pages via a web browser using a simplified markup language or a WYSIWYG text editor.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>)

Our course software, Scholar, provides us with basic Wiki software which we will use this semester to create a collaborative website on science fiction and fantasy.

What is the Assignment?

This assignment has two parts that must be completed during each two-week unit of the semester:

1. During each two-week unit of the semester, you will do *something* on the Wiki.
2. After you do your Wiki-work for each unit, you will turn to the forum called “Wiki Work Summary” and provide a **brief** summary of what you contributed.

(This brief forum entry ensures that you get credit for what you have done.)

You should spend **approximately 2 hours during each two-week unit** doing your wiki work.

This does not include the time it takes to type in your brief “Wiki Work Summary” in the appropriate forum. It does include the time it takes to decide what to do, to find the resources you need to do it, and to actually execute your plan.

How you spend those hours is up to you! I am looking forward to seeing what you do. 😊

What would be an appropriate “*something*” to count for a unit’s wiki-work? Some examples follow, but this list probably does not include all possibilities! A wiki is a very flexible form.

What counts as Wiki Work?

Some possibilities:

1. Write entries about authors, books, movies, texts, themes, genres, character types, or other aspects of science fiction and fantasy. These entries may be short or long. You or someone else may expand on them or edit them later.
 2. Add links to entries written by yourself or others.
 3. Edit the writing in entries (spelling, grammar, word choice) written by you or by someone else.
 4. Expand existing entries (by adding more information, different examples, alternate viewpoints) that were originally written by you or by someone else.
 5. Add images to entries written by yourself or others.
 6. Add podcasts, music, film clips, or other media to entries written by yourself or others.
 7. Work on the Wiki’s Home Page, Table of Contents, or other elements of organization and navigation, as our Wiki grows and these needs develop.
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Why are we doing this?

We are doing this because a Wiki will allow us to

- interact with each other in a useful and interesting way,
- share our knowledge and expertise with others,

- experience a new form of writing and a new definition of “authorship” made possible by technology,
 - participate in a collaborative enterprise.
 - learn from each other, and
 - have fun together!
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How do we do this fun and amazing thing?

This work will be easier than you might think. Wiki software is all about “easy.” To begin, click on “Wiki” in the left-hand column of our Scholar site. I have actually started our Wiki, as you will see, but there is nothing that you see here that you cannot change later if you desire to change it.

You have the power to edit any page in the Wiki.

Please do not drastically alter the Home Page (other than adding your name, working on a page, or adding any additional links you want) until Week Two. Leave its basic structure as is for a week. This will give everyone a chance to read these instructions and see what I have put there to get us started!

Thank you. ☺ **You are welcome, of course, to add other pages or begin other wiki work right away!** Expansions to the Table of Contents, with accompanying pages, are welcome.

When you look at our Wiki, you should see a page I have placed as a graphic on Page 3 of these instructions.

Key items to notice on our Wiki’s current home page:

- **The top line, defining mode** (Home, View, Edit, Info, History, Watch). This is possibly the most important thing you need to look for. It allows you to move between edit mode and viewing mode. If you want to edit a page, you just click on Edit mode to get into the editor. When you are through editing, if you click on Save (at bottom of editing page) you can return to the View mode. It’s easy to forget about these modes, but they are crucial to your success. If you click on History, you are able to see all the versions of the page that anyone has saved. Even after someone changes a page, the old version is still available. Try clicking on a few of these just to get a sense of what happens. You can see that our Wiki’s home page already has a history.
- **The second line, giving navigation links** (Help Page, Golem, Themes, Home Page, etc.)
- **A graphic.** To add graphics (or other media) to the Wiki, the easiest way is to just click on the little “image” icon on the editing page. This opens a window that allows you to browse your own computer and

upload (into the shared File Exchange folder that you will see) the item that you want to include. I think that you cannot copy and paste an image into the Wiki (at least, I have not been able to!). It seems to be necessary to upload the image in order to use it in your entry. You can, of course, upload it to your own Scholar “Resources” folder and make a copy of it from there if you prefer. There are probably other methods to make it available as well. Experiment.

- [A list of links](#) for our initial Table of Contents. You will notice that each of these (except the one for Themes) has a question mark after it. This is because that page does not yet exist. I made the link but no page. I hope that (after week one) someone will delete any remaining non-functional links! It’s good to have a plan, but the plan can be revised to suit the demands of what we produce as a collaborative group.

Wiki

[Home](#) [View](#) [Edit](#) [Info](#) [History](#) [Watch](#) Search:

[Help Page](#) > [Golem](#) > [Themes](#) > [Home](#)

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Authors?](#)
- [Books?](#)
- [Characters?](#)
- [Movies?](#)
- [Themes](#)

Wiki Writers: Students, add your name here! Feel free to make your name into a link (just put square brackets around it) to your home page, e-portfolio, picture, or other author info!

So let's begin!

Go ahead and click on Themes – you will see that I have begun a page there by listing three themes, and that for one of them (Golems) I have actually begun an entry. Look at things! Edit things! Add your name to the home page's list of Wiki Writers. Start working any time.

When you are in edit mode, you will see (on the lower right of the page) a guide to the simple formatting possible in this wiki. The most crucial things to note are

- how to make a link – **putting square brackets around any word makes it into a link** –
- and how to make a list – **putting a star and a space** before the word makes it part of a list.

If you have questions about the Wiki, please send them to me. I will do my best to answer. If yours seems like a question everyone will have, I will share your question and my answer with the rest of the class.

I am looking forward to working with you in the adventure of Wiki writing!

-- Professor Karen Swenson