

Introduction to Science Fiction and Fantasy English 1654 Online, Spring 2010

Professor Karen Swenson

karens@vt.edu

435 Shanks Hall, 231-8350

Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 10-12 or By Appointment

This document contains essential information about course policies, schedule, requirements, and grading. Please read it carefully and ask questions if something is unclear! Thank you. Following the guidelines I have set out in this syllabus will allow us to reach our **course objectives**:

- Students will learn to identify major periods in the history of speculative fiction
- Students will read significant authors from a variety of types of speculative fiction
- Students will learn to define significant sub-genres of speculative fiction
- Students will become familiar with a wide range of texts and movies defining this genre
- Students will develop their critical reading skills
- Students will become more adept at critical thinking
- Students will become more experienced at collaborative writing.
- Students will become more accustomed to considering a text within a historical context

In addition, I sincerely hope we will all **enjoy** this course!

Summary of Class Structure:

We will follow the schedule given below. Changes, if any are necessary, will be announced in Scholar and through email. Note that the semester is divided into two-week units, with work due by the end of each unit.

Each two-week unit requires reading and/or movie viewing. The books are available at the bookstore. I will supply PDF copies of some short stories, as indicated below, through the Resources folder of our Scholar site. You are responsible for finding and viewing the required movies. The library does have copies of them.

Each two-week unit requires your participation in quizzes, a forum, and a wiki. These are all available through Scholar. At the end of the semester, you will submit a Poster through a forum. This takes the place of a final exam.


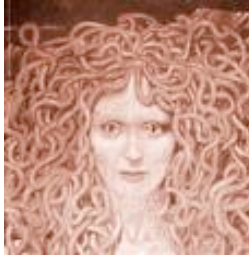


All quizzes/forums/Wiki reports are due by 11:55 p.m. on Saturdays at the end of each unit--but there is a built-in "grace period." Quizzes are self-grading and you are penalizing yourself by not keeping up, but any forum/Wiki in before I start to grade them--usually Monday morning about 8 am--will NOT be counted late!)

While assignments may be turned in after their recommended due dates (late quizzes do receive a penalty), you will be most successful in this course if you finish your work by the dates indicated in this schedule.



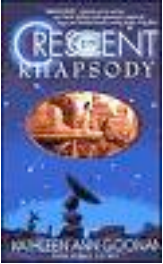
Calendar:


Date and Week	Reading/Viewing Assignments	Other Assignments
---------------	-----------------------------	-------------------

Unit One: Introduction to Class, 19-Century SF, Space Opera		
Week 1, Jan. 19-23	<p>To be read/viewed by the end of the first week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class documents: Introduction, Logistics, and Wiki Work (available through Scholar) • <i>Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy (SFF)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knight and "To Serve Man" (140-145, a story from SF's Golden Age to get you into the mood for the semester!) ○ "Introductory Material" (xi-xvii) ○ "Introduction" (1-3) ○ "Section One: Two Archetypal Stories" (5-7) ○ Shelley and "The Mortal Immortal" (8-16) ○ Poe and "The Fall of the House of Usher" (16-28) 	<p>--Introduction Forum in Scholar</p> <p>--Info Sheet, emailed to karens@vt.edu</p> 
Week 2, Jan. 24-30	<p>To be read/viewed by end of 2nd week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel, <i>The Warrior's Apprentice</i> (in <i>Young Miles</i>) • Film, <i>Serenity</i> (2005) • Short clip from Disney's <i>The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i>. Search YouTube or find it here: http://mariela1111.multiply.com/video/item/14/YouTube_disney_fantasia_The_Sorcerers_Apprentice_with_Mickey • Wikipedia article on <i>The Sorcerer's Apprentice</i> • SFF short stories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jules Verne, Herbert George Wells, Hugo Gernsback, and the Early Days of Modern Scientification (343-345) ○ Verne and "An Express of the Future" (370-373) ○ "How Science Fiction Got Its Name" (1127-1135) 	<p>--Quiz on Readings</p> <p>--Wiki Work & Summary Forum Entry</p>  
Unit Two: Fantasy and Horror		
Week 3, Jan. 31-Feb. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel -- <i>The Hobbit</i> ○ film -- <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i> (2001--first in series) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Stories of the Fantastique" (31-32) ○ "High Fantasy" (207-208) ○ Henderson and "The Anything Box" (297-306) 	<p>--Quiz on Week 3</p> 

<p>Week 4, Feb. 7-13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel -- <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> ○ film -- <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> (2001, first in series) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jacobs and "The Monkey's Paw" (94-101) ○ Lovecraft and "The Colour Out of Space" (101-119) ○ McCammon and "Nightcrawlers" (193-206) 	<p>--Quiz on Week 4 --Discussion Forum --Wiki & Report</p> 
<p>Unit Three: Aliens</p>		
<p>Week 5, Feb. 14-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ film -- <i>Galaxy Quest</i> (1999) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moore and "Shambleau" (525-543) ○ Weinbaum and "A Martian Odyssey" (556-573) ○ Long and "Invasion" (723-727) ○ Butler and "Blood Child" (1035-1048) ○ Williamson and "The Purchase of Earth" (1116-1123) 	<p>--Quiz on Week 5</p> 
<p>Week 6, Feb. 21-27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel – <i>Foreigner</i> ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herbert and "Seed Stock" (922-930) 	<p>--Quiz on Week 6 --Discussion Forum --Wiki & Report</p> 
<p>Week 7, Feb. 28 – Mar. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ film -- <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> (2005) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stoker and "Dracula's Guest" (86-94) ○ Lee and "Red as Blood" (313-320) ○ Gaiman and "Troll Bridge" (325-331) ○ PDF (see Scholar, Resources) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "The Nine Billion Names of God" 	<p>--Quiz on Week 7</p> 

Week 8, Mar. 6 - Mar. 14	Spring Break	Time to Catch Up!
Week 9, Mar. 14-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel – <i>Fledgling</i> ○ PDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarke and "The Star" 	--Quiz on Week 9 --Discussion Forum --Wiki & Report 
Unit Five: Computers / Hard Science / Robots		
Week 10, Mar. 21-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel -- <i>I, Robot</i> ○ film -- <i>I, Robot</i> (2004) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith and "Robot Nemesis" (544-556) ○ PDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forward and "The Singing Diamond" ○ Shaw and "Light of Other Days" 	--Quiz on Week 10 
Week 11, Mar. 28-Apr. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel -- <i>Prey</i> ○ film -- <i>The Matrix</i> (1999) 	--Quiz on Week 11 --Discussion Forum --Wiki & Report 
Unit Six: Gender Issues		
Week 12, Apr. 4-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ film -- <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (1990) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Russ and "When It Changed (946-951)" ○ PDF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intros to Women in SF ○ "Toy for Juliette" 	--Quiz on Week 12 
Week 13, Apr. 11-17	novel -- <i>The Door Into Ocean</i> <i>SFF</i> Merril and "That Only a Mother" (660-666)	--Quiz on Week 13 --Discussion Forum --Wiki & Report

		
Unit Seven: Biology / Psychology		
Week 14, Apr. 18-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ film--<i>Gattaca</i> (1997) ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Van Vogt and "The Weapons Shop" (599-625) ○ Gibson and "Burning Chrome" (1006-1019) ○ Card and "Ender's Game" (970-996) ○ Dick and "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (880-894) ○ Vonnegut and "Harrison Bergeron" (864-868) 	--Quiz on Week 14 
Week 15, Apr. 25 – May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novel--<i>Crescent City Rhapsody</i> ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jackson and "The Lottery" (134-140) 	--Quiz on Week 15 --Discussion Forum --Wiki & Report 
Unit Eight: Alternate History, Time Travel		
Week 16, May 2-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ novelette: <i>Bring the Jubilee</i> ○ <i>SFF</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Robinson and "Remaking History" (1107-1115) ○ PDF Turtledove and "Introduction" ○ Morrow and "Abe Lincoln" ○ DiChario and "The Winterberry" 	No later than noon Thurs. 5/6: -- Quiz on Week 16/Exit Quiz

		 <p data-bbox="1133 646 1385 877">Your Final Project, a poster you will submit through a Forum, takes the place of a final exam. It is due no later than ***11:55 pm, Saturday, May 8***</p>
--	--	--

Required Texts:

The bookstore should have copies of these texts, but you can also get them online. Many (all?) can be purchased used online at low cost.

Author	Title
Roberts (ed.)	<i>Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy</i>
Bujold	<i>The Warrior's Apprentice (in Young Miles)</i>
Tolkien	<i>The Hobbit</i>
LeGuin	<i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i>
Cherryh	<i>Foreigner</i>
Slonczewski	<i>A Door Into Ocean</i>
Goonan	<i>Crescent City Rhapsody</i>
Asimov	<i>I, Robot</i>
Crichton	<i>Prey</i>
Moore	<i>Bring the Jubilee</i>
Butler	<i>Fledgling</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various PDFs, available in Scholar • Weekly messages/lectures sent through email and posted to Announcements in Scholar

You need to find and watch these nine movies. The library has a copy of each, and these too are available used online and through rental companies such as Netflix. Plan ahead.

<i>Serenity</i> (2005)	<i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> (2005)
<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings</i> (2001)	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (1990)

		“Principles of Community?”
Quality	3	Did your contributions show evidence of understanding of course content? Were they accurate? Were they formally (spelling and grammar) correct?
Originality, Diversity	4	Did your contribution show evidence of original thought rather than just repeat something a lot of people have said? Did you contribute something new and valuable to the conversation?
Usefulness	4	Did your contributions enhance the collaborative text we are building together?

Academic and Student Support:

You can learn about the wealth of academic and student support services available by visiting the pages on [Virginia Tech Online](#) site that deal with eLearning Resources and Student Services. Here you'll find information about tutoring, proctoring, Virginia Tech libraries, career services, counseling, admissions, registration, the timetable of classes, financial aid and many other things.

Disability Accommodations:

Any student that is in need of special accommodations due to a disability, as recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) (SSD) in the Dean of Students Office.

Students with disabilities are responsible for self-identification. To be eligible for services, documentation of the disability from a qualified professional must be presented to SSD upon request. Academic adjustments may include, but are not limited to: priority registration, auxiliary aids, program and course adjustment, exam modifications, oral or sign language interpreters, cassette taping of text/materials, note takers/readers, or assistive technology.
(see <http://www.eoaa.vt.edu/>)

For more information, please contact:
150 Henderson Hall (0255)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540/231-3788
Fax: 540/231-3232
TTY: 540/231-1740
E-mail: ssd@vt.edu
Website: <http://www.ssd.vt.edu>

Technical Support:

Student technical support for this course is available through VTOnline (VTO). If you are experiencing technical difficulty accessing materials that you need for this course or a general technical support question please request assistance by filling out the help form or sending a message to support@iddl.vt.edu. When

making a request please be sure that you provide as much detail (name, problematic URL or module, operating system, description of problem) as possible to help solve your problem more efficiently. You may also go through 4-help to request assistance.

Virginia Tech also has a Customer Support Center that is available 24/7 to reset passwords, monitor system outages, and answer questions on a wide variety of computer related issues. Moreover, you can find answers to many of your questions by reading VTOline Frequently Asked Questions or Virginia Tech's Knowledge Base.

The buttons on the left-hand side of our course site provide links to these services.
