Course Description
This course will explore the cultural and social meaning of science fiction. How does science fiction express a society’s dreams, fantasies, or fears of the future? In this class we will explore the major critical and theoretical approaches to science fiction, and we will study the origin and historical development of science fiction and its major developments over the course of the twentieth century. We will conclude the semester by looking at new directions in prose science fiction at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Course requirements will include: Two short essays, one research project and presentation, and midterm and final exams.

Readings:
Adam Roberts, Science Fiction 2nd ed. (Routledge) ISBN: 9780415366687
Mary Doria Russell The Sparrow (Ballantine Books) ISBN: 9780449912553
Margaret Atwood Oryx and Crake (Anchor) ISBN: 9780385721677
Neil Stephenson The Diamond Age (Spectra) ISBN: 9780553380965
China Mievelle Iron Council (Del Ray) ISBN: 9780345458421
Charles Yu How To Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe (Pantheon): ISBN: 978-0307379207