Course Description:
The 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? Or is science fiction a form of nostalgia? Are we already living in a science fictional universe? In this class, we will attempt to answer these questions through a study of major works of prose science fiction of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In this course, we will consider the major critical and theoretical approaches to science fiction today, as well as its origin and historical development. 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
John Scalzi, Old Man’s War (Tor) ISBN: 9780765348272
Margaret Atwood, Oryx and Crake (Anchor) ISBN: 9780385721677
China Mieville, Embassytown (Del Ray) ISBN: 978 0345524508
Charles Yu, How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe (Pantheon) ISBN: 9780307379207