

EN 2443:  
Introduction to  
Science Fiction

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L. Abigail Voller

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Tuesdays/Thursdays  
9:30-10:45am



**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? 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* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Routledge) ISBN: 9780415366687

John Scalzi, *Old Man's War* (Tor) ISBN: 9780765348272

H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds* (Penguin Classics) ISBN: 9780141441030

Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* (Ace Trade) ISBN: 9780441007318

Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* (Del Ray): ISBN: 9780345404473

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

Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (Penguin) ISBN: 9781594483295