Instructor Information
Instructor: Michael Hancock
Office: Hagey Hall 369
Office Hours: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm MW
Email: m3hancoc@uwaterloo.ca (please put the course name ENGL 208B in your email subject lines)
TA: Zach Pearl, znpearl@uwaterloo.ca  Office Hours 3-5 Th PAS 1087

Course Description
This course teaches the forms of science fiction present in modern science fiction and science fiction throughout history, in literature and other media forms. The main objective of this course will be to investigate how and why sf (science fiction) functions in the ways that it does. How is sf defined (and who is doing the defining)? How has our understanding of sf changed over time? How does sf work in different medium forms? How does it reflect on contemporary social issues? What purpose does science fiction serve in our lives? In particular, we will center on three subgenres of science fiction, aliens, robots, and time travel, to examine how and why science fiction creators and science fiction fans keep returning to these ideas. This course will also push students to hone their skills regarding critical analysis and essay composition.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will have been introduced and be expected to successfully demonstrate some of the following skills:

- To critically investigate and discuss major examples of science fiction literature and other works
- To appreciate and apply some critical and theoretical approaches of science fiction to sf-based texts
- To understand and communicate some of the history behind science fiction as a genre and form
- To recognize how sf presents itself in different media, and how it contains its own subgenres and influences
- To propose and carry out a critical investigation of a well-ordered argument concerning a given research topic regarding sf literature

Required Texts
- Access to Netflix (for viewing Annihilation, Russian Doll, and potentially other texts)
- 80 Days. (Videogame; available on PC, Mac OS X, iOS, and Android)

Readings (or links to readings) Available on LEARN


  [http://podcasts.lightspeedmagazine.com/podcast_hwang_s_billion_brilliant_alice_sola_kim.mp3](http://podcasts.lightspeedmagazine.com/podcast_hwang_s_billion_brilliant_alice_sola_kim.mp3)


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**Course Requirements and Assessment**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation (if known)</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>Sept 27th; Oct 9th; Nov 13th</td>
<td>15.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Essay (5-7 pages)</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay / Project (7-8 pages/4 pages)</td>
<td>Dec 3rd</td>
<td>25.00%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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All of the assignments will be explained in greater detail as their respective due dates approach. Note all assignments are due by 5:00 pm on the Friday of the week that they are due; anything submitted after that class will count as late.

**Participation and Attendance.** Students will receive a portion of this mark for being present in class, and a portion for active and helpful participation. Grading for the participation portion will be done considering the following:

- **90-100 Excellent:** With few, if any, exceptions, the student is making frequent, substantive, useful and original contributions to class discussions; the student consistently engaged and participating, and attends all peer review sessions and classes
- **80-89 Good:** the student is a regular contributor to discussions; the student is consistently engaged, and attends all peer review sessions
- **70-79 Satisfactory:** The student demonstrates occasional contributions and inconsistent engagement
- **60-69 Marginal:** Minimal contributions and/or significant lack of engagement
- **< 60 Failure:** repeated disruptive, inappropriate or unethical behaviour; behaviour disrespectful to others; consistent lack of commitment and/or effort

**Response Papers**

Three times throughout the term, students must turn in a brief (2 pages) response paper. The paper will contain their response to one of the works discussed (or to be discussed) in class. If the work has already been discussed in class, the student is expected to focus on a different aspect of the work that hasn’t been discussed, or expand on the previous discussion in a meaningful way. (The second and third paper will have further qualifications.) The papers will be marked in terms of how well the students display knowledge of the text, apply what’s been discussed in class, demonstrate original thinking, present a coherent argument, and adhere to conventions in terms of punctuation and mechanics.
First Essay
This essay will ask students to expand aliens or robots as a science fiction trope, drawing on the works and material discussed thus far.

Final Essay
This essay is the student’s chance to demonstrate what has been learned over the course of the class. Creative projects and collaborations will be encouraged. Students will receive a detailed description of this assignment along with possible essay topics well in advance of the due date.

Final Exam
Questions will be designed to test your knowledge of the readings, and concepts discussed in class. The exam will involve identifying passages, delivering short answers, and an in-class essay.

Course Outline / Class Schedule
Some readings may be subject to change; all short stories and excerpts are available from LEARN.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings Due</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 4th</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 9th – Sept 11th</td>
<td>Alien invasions and colonialism</td>
<td>War of the Worlds H. G. Wells</td>
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<td>Sept 16th – Sept 18th</td>
<td>First Contact stories</td>
<td>“Piper in the Woods” Philip K. Dick</td>
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<td>“Carthago Delenda Est” Genevieve Valentine</td>
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<td>“Who Goes There?” John W. Campbell</td>
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<td>“Blood Child” Octavia Butler</td>
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<td>Sept 30th – Oct 2nd</td>
<td>Robots in older science fiction</td>
<td>“Super-Toys Last All Summer Long” Brian Aldiss</td>
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<td>“Evidence” by Isaac Asimov</td>
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<td>“Fondly Fahrenheit” by Alfred Bester</td>
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<td>“Incarnation Day” Walter John Williams</td>
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<td>“Liking What You See: A Documentary” Ted Chiang</td>
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<td>Oct 14th – Oct</td>
<td>Reading Week (no</td>
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<td>Oct 16th</td>
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<td>Nov 4th – Nov 6th</td>
<td>Time Travel: Time Loops</td>
<td><em>Russian Doll</em> (on Netflix)&lt;br&gt;“All You Zombies” Robert Heinlein</td>
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<td>Nov 18th – Nov 20th</td>
<td>Science Fiction and videogames</td>
<td>“The Kingdom of the Blind” Maureen McHugh&lt;br&gt;<em>80 Days</em> (inkle)</td>
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<td>Nov 25th – Nov 27th</td>
<td>Science Fiction film (to be selected)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3rd</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes&lt;br&gt;(final exam preparation)</td>
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<td>Final Essay / Project</td>
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**Course Policies**

Course policies are essentially based on respectful communication and setting clear expectations. If something about the course, be it an assignment or policy, is not clear to you please write me and we will sort the issue. Please take the time to read the syllabus and the assignments carefully and ask me questions if you’re not sure about something. A syllabus functions as a kind of contract between instructor and student, but more importantly it is a resource and connects you to resources both in the classroom and around campus. I want to make this course as useful to you as possible, and that means—
as is always the case in technical communication—clearly communicating our expectations of each other and making sure everyone is on the same page.

Accessibility Statement

The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for all aspects of your academic career. If you require academic accommodations in regards to your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term. The office is dedicated to supporting all students with known or suspected disabilities or disabling conditions, such as full-time or part-time students taking on-campus or online courses, domestic and international students, and regular and co-op students.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling_services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek form Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website

Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)

Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River.
For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory (PDF).

**Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo**

Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, ‘academic freedom’ refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.

**Emergencies and Absences**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email. You are expected to read your @uwaterloo.ca email on a frequent basis. Personal emergencies should be communicated to me as soon as possible, but attend first to you and your family’s well-being. Whatever happens to be your particular situation is not my business and all I need to know is there was a medical emergency. You do not need to provide any details. For extended absences I would like a note from a doctor, but again no details about why you were away ever need to be provided in these notes and you do not need to disclose the reason to me.

**Grade Concerns and Incompletes**

Should your grades concern you then you must speak with me within the first 3/4 of the term; the last quarter of the term will not provide sufficient time to markedly improve your final grade. Finally, I will not grant an incomplete in the course; if you have concerns about completing your term please write to me as soon as possible.

**Academic Honesty**

All work in this course should be original. Any material that you paraphrase or quote must be cited according to an accepted style format (MLA, in this course). Over citing will not be penalized and, in fact, I’m always happy to see you’re doing research. If you’re not sure if you should cite something, go ahead and cite it. We can chat about it later, but when in doubt give credit. Remember you want to give credit for words and ideas.
**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the Office of Academic Integrity webpage for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

**Grievances and Appeals**

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

**The Writing and Communication Centre**

The Writing and Communication Centre works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and Communication Specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/. Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

Please note that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.