

New York City College of Technology
The City University of New York
English Department

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Learning Outcomes
Science Fiction – ENG 2420

ENG 2420 Fulfills Individual and Society Category for Pathways

3 credits, 3 hours
Prerequisite: ENG 1101

Course Description

English 2420 combines analysis of science fiction as literature with consideration of the questions science and technology raise about past, present, and future societies. In class discussions and essays, students will focus on the basic elements of literary analysis, the historical development of the science fiction genre, and the thematic concerns of each assigned text. Class discussions will address issues of form and will delve into the cultural contexts that have helped shaped some of the core tropes of the genre, such as artificial intelligence and human/machine interactions, the exploration of space and time, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life. Attention will also be paid to the ways in which authors have used utopian and dystopian societies of the future to comment upon humanity's present relationship with science and technology.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
- Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.

Pathways Learning Outcomes Individual and Society

A course in this area must meet at least three of the following additional learning outcomes. A student will:

- Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.
- Examine how an individual's **place** in society affects experiences, values, or choices.
- Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.
- Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.
- Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.

Course – Specific Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to

- assess various visions of the future, asking if they are simply fantasies, attempts to come to terms with contemporary situations through extrapolation into the future, or actual attempts to predict the future.
- present their own views on the effectiveness of the literature and films under consideration. Do they raise or answer questions? How? Are they effective as entertainment? Why or why not?

- examine the tensions between the individual and society as presented in science fiction.
- discuss how an individual can maintain a personal ethical standard in a milieu where all standards easily erode.
- examine the value of the genre against actual history and consider whether or not the individual can have an impact on the forces of change.

Assessment Methods

- Reading and discussion will be measured through grading of discussion question responses and oral participation.
- Written analysis of texts will be measured through grading of essays.
- Knowledge of texts will be measured through quizzes and exams.

New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity

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