

**Universidad de Puerto Rico  
Río Piedras Campus  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of English**

**English 3126:** Science Fiction

**Academic Year:** 2020/2021 Semester II: January-May 2021

**Professor:** Maritza Cardona ([cardona.maritza42@gmail.com](mailto:cardona.maritza42@gmail.com))

**Credit Hours:** 45 hours/3 credits

**Office Hours:** M/W 10:00am – 11:20 am

**\*This is an online course**

**\*\*The online course will be held both synchronously and asynchronously. This means that there will be specific days in which the class will be held online via video conferences in Google Meets or Big Blue Button at the time of the class. Additionally, on days in which there is no video conference online, students will still have assigned material and assignments given via Moodle, videos, emails, and online forums which must be completed by their due dates.**

**\*\*\*As this is an online course, you need to make sure to dedicate the appropriate time for this and all your other courses. No exceptions or extended due dates will be offered.**

**Course Description:** A study of Science Fiction from H. G. Wells to the present, emphasizing its characteristics, literary techniques, and its treatment of social and philosophical problems and the effects of technology.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. gain a broad understanding of the history English-language Science Fiction literature in terms of its diverse forms, themes, and publication media.

2. enter a scholarly conversation about the definitions, evolution, and purpose of the science-fiction genre.
3. read closely and critically, interpreting literature in a way that is both intellectually rigorous and personally significant while presenting interpretations in class discussion and essays using both personal experience and imagination.
4. develop the ability to analyze individual or multiple science-fiction texts in terms of key concepts including genre, implied audience, and plot construction.
5. compose a scholarly academic essay or an original story within the field of literature, using appropriate sources, theoretical perspectives, and MLA citation (concerning the critical essay).

#### **Required Readings:**

- Asimov, Isaac “Nightfall”
- Bradbury, Ray *Fahrenheit 451*
- Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*
- Ellison, Harlan “I have no mouth, and I must scream”
- H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*
- Hopkinson, Nalo *Midnight Robber*
- Lovecraft, H. P. *The Whisperer in Darkness*
- Poe, Edgar Allan, “Mesmeric Revelation”
- Tiptree, James “The Girl who was Plugged in”

\*The professor might add and/or eliminate articles and readings as the semester develops\*

#### **Screenings:**

- *Alien* (1979)
- *Black Panther* (2018)
- *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956)
- *Metropolis* (1927)
- Episode Selections from *The Twilight Zone* (1958)

\*The professor might add and/or eliminate films to be screened as the semester develops\*

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

- Active participation in forum
- Attendance
- Response papers
- Homework
- Midterm
- Final paper

**\*This course confronts difficult and often controversial themes such as sex, abuse and religion. Please remember the information I disseminate in class is not necessarily my opinion. For the most part, I am relaying critical theory and research to you. It is your responsibility, through critical thinking, to decide whether to accept or reject those theories.**

### **Attendance and Punctuality:**

Your attendance will be based on your participation in the forums. If you do not participate within the allotted time given, you will be counted as absent in that particular class. After 3 unexcused absences students will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. After 5 unexcused absences the student will get an F in class. It is your responsibility to catch up after missing classes.

### **Participation:**

Since this is an online class, your participation grade will be based on your interaction in the forum. Even though it is okay for you to share whether you liked something or not, your grade will be based on how you critically approach a particular piece of literature and/or film. If there is no

critical thinking in your original post or in the replies you write to your classmates, your participation grade will be lowered.

**Midterm and Final Paper:**

Guidelines for the midterm and final paper will be given nearing the time of the projects.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as your own. It is a real problem and will be taken seriously. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade and can even lead to suspension or expulsion. If you plan on citing or referencing, please do so properly and according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines.

**Gender and Sexual Identity Discrimination Policy:**

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms, including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

**Rights of Students with Disabilities:**

The University of Puerto Rico complies with all state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination including "The American Disabilities Act" (ADA) and Law #51 from the Puerto Rico Commonwealth (Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico). Every student has the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Those students with special needs that require some type of particular assistance or

accommodation shall explicitly communicate it directly to the professor. Students who are receiving VRS services shall communicate that to the professor at the beginning of the semester to facilitate appropriate planning and the necessary equipment according to the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (Oficina de servicio a estudiantes con impedimentos [OSEI]), administered by the Dean of Students Office. Any other student requiring assistance or special accommodation shall also communicate directly with the professor. Reasonable accommodations requests or services do not exempt the student from complying and fulfilling academic and course related requirements and responsibilities. Differential evaluation will be provided to students with special needs who have been duly certified by OAPI. (See Circular Núm. 9 de 2002–2003.)

### **Integridad Académica:**

La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación Núm. 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que “la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta.” Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente. Para velar por la integridad y seguridad de los datos de los usuarios, todo curso híbrido y en línea deberá ofrecerse mediante la plataforma institucional de gestión de aprendizaje, la cual utiliza protocolos seguros de conexión y autenticación. El sistema

autentica la identidad del usuario utilizando el nombre del usuario y contraseña asignados en su cuenta institucional. El usuario es responsable de mantener segura, proteger, y no compartir su contraseña con otra persona.