

# FYS: Science Fiction

FYS 101L-126 • Spring 2018

## -Background

When and where	Wednesdays 8:00am to 9:15am in LT 006 Fridays 9:30am to 12:15pm in the LT Screening Room (LT 019)
Required Texts	<i>The Distance Between Us</i> ISBN 978-1451661774 by Reyna Grande <i>Masterpieces: The Best Science Fiction of the 20th Century</i> ISBN 978-0441011339 edited by Orson Scott Card
Web site	<a href="http://www.labouseur.com/courses/scifi/">http://www.labouseur.com/courses/scifi/</a>
Instructor	Alan G. Labouseur   Alan.Labouseur@Marist.edu Hancock 3007   845-575-3832 Marist phone (Office hours are posted.)   845-440-1102 home office phone



## -Grading

Letter Grades			
You can earn up to 1000 points over the course of the semester, broken down as follows: (These weights are subject to minor variation.)	Writing: <i>Distance Between Us</i> essay	10.0%	100 points - bring your book and notes
	Writing: Reaction papers	15.0%	150 points - 3 at 50 points each
	Writing: Research paper	20.0%	200 points - in a few pieces
	Presenting: Introduce yourself	0.0%	no points - 1 minute (not graded)
	Presenting: Teach us something	5.0%	50 points - 2 minutes
	Presenting: Article summary	15.0%	150 points - 3 minutes
	Presenting: Media Project	20.0%	200 points - 10 minutes (teams)
	Final Exam	10.0%	100 points - comprehensive exam
Attendance and Participation	2.5%	25 points for quality and quantity	
Laziness and Whining	2.5%	25 points for <b>not</b> (lazy or whining)	

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## -Objectives and Assessment

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*Our students will . . .*

### GENERAL

- analyze science fiction films, television, literary works, and historical texts
- understand key terms, questions, and insights related to science fiction.
- develop useful ideas for class discussion before the class meets.
- developing self-directed, creative research projects.
- harvest useful ideas from class discussions and presentations to enhance their own projects.
- have a good deal of fun

### Assessment

Final exam,  
class discussions,  
reaction papers,  
research papers,  
presentations

### INFORMATION LITERACY

- be able to tell the difference between data and information.
- determine when information is needed and effectively find it using a variety of reference sources.
- use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- locate and use library collections and services as well as other search tools and databases.
- evaluate information quality and determine its point of view.

Class discussions,  
special activities  
with the Library,  
research paper

### WRITING

- demonstrate effective writing skills and processes by employing the rhetorical techniques of academic writing, including invention, research, critical analysis, evaluation, revision, and the serial comma.
- use language to express ideas clearly in order to create and maintain interest, and to enhance the student's credibility.
- effectively utilize the conventions of standard written English.
- incorporate and document appropriate sources in accordance with the formatting style proper for the discipline.
- develop and support a relevant and informed thesis or point of view that is appropriate for its audience, purpose, discipline, and theme.

Reaction papers,  
research paper,  
Essay... all with  
feedback from  
Jeff and Alan

### PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- gain experience making both formal and informal presentations.
- better understand the role that effective presentations have in public and professional contexts
- identify and critically evaluate the quality of claims, explanation, support, and delivery in public and professional discourse, and understanding the factors influencing a speaker's credibility.
- develop audience-centered presentations meeting concrete professional objectives.
- deliver multiple well-rehearsed and polished presentations meeting time, content, and interactive requirements.

Making several  
presentations



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## -Planned Schedule

#	Readings	Topics and Activities	Due Wednesday
1	<i>The Road Not Taken</i> Harry Turtledove (1985)	<i>Wednesday</i> 1/17 Introduction, policies, our plan, resources, and what to expect <i>Friday</i> 1/19 Interstellar Travel : <i>Forbidden Planet</i> (1956) Star Trek TOS - <i>By Any Other Name</i> (1968)	—
2	<i>The Distance Between Us</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> 1/24 In-class workshop from the Writing Center <i>Friday</i> 1/26 Religion vs. Science : TNG - <i>Who Watches the Watchers</i> (1989), DS9 - <i>In the Hands of the Prophets</i> (1993), <i>Stargate - Red Sky</i> (2001)	Reaction 1a (Interstellar Travel)
3	<i>All You Zombies</i> Robert A. Heinlein (1959)	<i>Wednesday</i> 1/31 Presentations - <i>Introduce Yourself (one minute)</i> <i>Friday</i> 2/2 Time Travel : <i>Back to the Future</i> (1985)	Reaction 1b
4	<i>The Distance Between Us</i>	<i>Wednesday</i> 2/7 In-class essay: <i>The Distance Between Us</i> (bring your book and notes) <i>Friday</i> 2/9 War, Genocide, and Forgiveness : DS9 - <i>Duet</i> (1993), <i>In the Pale Moonlight</i> (1998), <i>Dogs of War</i> (1999)	Reaction 2a (Time Travel)
5	<i>Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed</i> Ray Bradbury (1949)	<i>Wednesday</i> 2/14 Special Presentation in class: <i>Power Presenting</i> <i>Friday</i> 2/16 Alien Contact : <i>Contact</i> (1997)	Reaction 2b
6	<i>Inconstant Moon</i> Larry Niven (1971)	<i>Wednesday</i> 2/21 Presentations - <i>Teach Us Something (two minutes)</i> <i>Friday</i> 2/23 More Alien Contact : <i>The Twilight Zone - To Serve Man</i> (1962) <i>Alien</i> (1979)	—
7	<i>Robot Dreams</i> Isaac Asimov (1986)	<i>Wednesday</i> 2/28 Special Presentation: <i>Introduction to The Research Process in LB 303</i> <i>Friday</i> 3/2 Identity : TNG - <i>Measure of a Man</i> (1989) & <i>The Quality of Life</i> (1992) TOS - <i>What are Little Girls Made of?</i> (1966)	—
8	<i>The Tunnel under the World</i> Frederik Pohl (1955)	<i>Wednesday</i> 3/7 Presentations - <i>Article Summary (three minutes)</i> <i>Friday</i> 3/9 Cold War, Red Scare, Paranoia : TOS - <i>Balance of Terror</i> (1966), The Twilight Zone - <i>The Monsters...Maple St</i> (1960) & <i>Will the Real Martian...</i> (1961), A Brief History of Science Fiction in TV and Film	Reaction 3 (Identity Questions)
9	—	<i>Wednesday</i> 3/14 No class meeting - Spring Break <i>Friday</i> 3/16 No class meeting - Spring Break	—
10	—	<i>Wednesday</i> 3/21 Special Presentation: <i>Finding, Evaluating, &amp; Citing Sources in LB 303</i> <i>Friday</i> 3/23 Revenge : <i>Ender's Game</i> (2013)	Research Paper ideas
11	—	<i>Wednesday</i> 3/28 Special Presentation: <i>Academic Planning in LT 019</i> <i>Friday</i> 3/30 No class meeting - Easter Break	Research Paper progress
12	—	<i>Wednesday</i> 4/4 Discuss the research paper / Watch <i>Lost In Space</i> <i>Friday</i> 4/6 Apocalyptic Sci-Fi : <i>Planet of the Apes</i> (1968)	Research Paper outline, intro, conclusion
13	—	<i>Wednesday</i> 4/11 Watch more <i>Lost in Space</i> <i>Friday</i> 4/13 Utopia or Dystopia? : <i>Logan's Run</i> (1976)	Finished Research Paper
14		<i>Wednesday</i> 4/18 Media Presentation Example / Make teams and talk topics <i>Friday</i> 4/20 Obsession : <i>Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan</i> (1982)	—
15		<i>Wednesday</i> 4/25 Discuss the media presentation / Watch something <i>Friday</i> 4/27 Comedy in Sci Fi : TOS - <i>The Trouble with Tribbles</i> (1967) <i>Galaxy Quest</i> (1999)	Media Presentation progress
16		<i>Wednesday</i> 5/2 Media Presentation rehearsals <i>Friday</i> 5/4 Bringing it all together: <i>Moon</i> (2009)	Media Presentation progress
17	<i>Wednesday at 8am</i> 5/9 Media Project Team Presentations Short (yet comprehensive) <b>Final Exam</b>	Media Presentation	