



**MERCER**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Number**  
**ENG 220**

**Course Title**  
**Science Fiction Literature**

**Credits**  
**3**

**Hours:**  
**Lecture/Lab/Other**

**Co- or Pre-requisite**

**Implementation**  
**Semester & Year**

**3 Lecture**

**Minimum C grade in ENG 102**

**Fall 2022**

**Catalog description:**

Explores science fiction through a study of genre elements and the challenges these genres present. By examining a diverse selection of speculative literature, participants better appreciate and interpret such works and how they both reflect and change our culture.

**General Education Category:**  
**Goal 6: Humanities**

**Course coordinator:**  
**Edward Carmien, X3306, [carmiene@mccc.edu](mailto:carmiene@mccc.edu)**

**Required texts & Other materials:**

4-6 science fiction (SF) works, supporting critical texts as appropriate for the chosen theme, and materials to support academic integrity, such as the Mercer Student Handbook. Instructors should choose diverse works spanning from the earliest examples of speculative fiction to the present, with literary archetypes such as virtuality, immortality, the apocalypse, utopia, the hero's journey, and others serving as the core of the course theme. Potential sources range from The Epic of Gilgamesh or the Mahabharata, Lucian of Samosata, to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and the modern range of authors such as Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Ursula K. LeGuin, C.J. Cherryh, William Gibson, Anne Leckie, Margaret Atwood, Iain M. Banks, and Neil Gaiman, and SF writers of color such as Octavia Butler, Nalo Hopkinson, Samuel R. Delany, N.K Jemison, and Nnedi Okorafor. Work representative of emerging Asian SF, such as that by Liu Cixin, should be included.

**Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

***Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:***

1. Demonstrate and express knowledge of the science fiction genre [Supports ILG 1, 6, 8, 11; PLO 1]
2. Identify various elements of structure in fiction and other expressive modes of storytelling [Supports ILG 1, 6, 11; PLO 1, 3]
3. Analyze SF works using one or more critical frameworks [Supports ILG 1, 6, 8, 10, 11; PLO 1, 2, 3]
4. Understand and express knowledge of the scope and flow of both American and world SF in a broad historical context [Supports ILG 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11; PLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
5. Assess and express the relative merits of a variety of SF works [Supports ILG 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11; PLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
6. Analyze literature using close reading and research-based evidence in a formal essay and other expressive formats [Supports ILG 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11; PLO 1, 2, 3, 4]

## Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

**Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English.** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

**Institutional Learning Goal 4. Technology.** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

**Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities.** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

**Institutional Learning Goal 7. History.** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

**Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective:** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

**Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy:** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

**Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking:** Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

## Program Learning Outcomes for the Liberal Arts Program (PLO)

1. **Concept Knowledge.** Understand the vocabulary, methods, and major concepts presented in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences.
2. **Communication.** Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing.
3. **Critical Thinking.** Perform a series of thinking tasks including speculation, analysis, and synthesis (i.e., abstract reasoning)
4. **Research Methods.** Utilize research materials and methodologies.

## Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

**Unit I** Introduction to Science Fiction, it's History and Cultural Context [Supports Course SLO 1, 2]

### Learning Objectives

*The student will be able to:*

- Demonstrate familiarity with the history of SF in world culture
- Identify characteristics of SF and how they represent a wider literary tradition
- Understand terminology applicable to the discussion of media and print SF works

**Unit II** Main Literary and Media Review of the Course Content in Context of the Course Theme [Supports Course SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

### Learning Objectives

*The student will be able to:*

- Discuss SF texts and media in a critical context
- Analyze SF works using appropriate critical terminology
- Assess the place course thematic works have in the development of SF during the past 150+ years

**Unit III** Research & Student Exploration of the Field [Supports Course SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

### Learning Objectives

*The student will be able to:*

- Scan the publishing landscape for SF and related media works
- Discover and link useful critical instruments in their research-based work
- Carry out competent scholarly presentations and writing

**Evaluation of student learning:** [Supports Course SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

- Critical Review, 10%
- Critical Presentation, 10%
- Class Endeavor, 10%
- Mid-Term Exam, 10%
- Final Exam, 10%
- Attendance, Participation, Quizzes, 15%
- Research Paper Project, 35%