

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

X Transfer Course X A.A. Degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: English 265: Science Fiction

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: Eligibility for ENG 100

COREQUISITE: none

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: none

SCOPE OF COURSE: An introduction to science fiction—its major authors and stories, themes, trends, and cultural impact. *Graded only.*

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will:

1. trace changes in the genre over the last one hundred years.
2. analyze representative samples of literature in the field and be able to identify the characteristics of the genre.
3. identify the expectations of readers of science fiction.
4. compare the style, theme, and cultural backgrounds of various authors within the genre.
5. demonstrate an understanding of the cultural impact of science fiction on the world.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. science as part of the modern world
 - A. its use
 - B. its role in our lives
- II. concept of change in the modern world
 - A. part of life
 - B. how to deal with it
- III. importance of “what if”
- IV. the genre is seen as speculative fiction
- V. new way of seeing our world
 - A. change
 - B. catastrophe
 - C. alien perspective
- VI. use of myth and archetypes
 - A. creation of life
 - B. gods from above
 - C. the quest
 - D. coming of age
 - E. science fiction as space opera
- VII. utopias/dystopias
- VIII. wish fulfillment
 - A. teleportation
 - B. time travel
 - C. alternate universe
- IX. alternate life forms
 - A. robots
 - B. androids
 - C. aliens
- X. extrapolation
 - A. how humans are affected by science
 - B. future social conditions
- XI. cultural impact of science fiction
 - A. movies
 - B. television
 - C. general public

REQUIRED READING:

A minimum of five novels and/or anthologies will be assigned for the class. The reading list will include selected critical works appropriate for science fiction. These critical works will discuss authors, themes, trends, and cultural impact of science fiction on society. Instructors will choose their own texts, including, but not limited to, the following samples:

Clarke, Arthur. Childhood's End. New York: Ballantine, 1953.

Hartwell, David. Age of Wonders. New York: Tor, 1996.

LeGuin, Ursula. The Left Hand of Darkness. New York: Ace, 1969.

Roberts, Garyn. The Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001.

Sawyer, Robert. Calculating God. New York: Forge, 2001.

Since these books are often reprinted by different publishers, any edition which is currently in print would be acceptable.

SUGGESTED READING:

Texts appropriate for the course, such as the following:

Asimov, Isaac. Foundation. New York: Avon, 1966.

Brigg, Peter. The Span of Mainstream and Science Fiction: A Critical Study of a New Literary Genre. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2002.

Crichton, Michael. Prey. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.

Dick, Philip. The Man In the High Castle. New York: Berkeley, 1962.

Ellison, Harlan. Dangerous Visions. New York: Berkeley, 1967.

Heinlein, Robert. Starship Troopers. New York: Berkeley, 1968.

REQUIRED WRITING:

1. Two to three essays of 600-1,000 words each. The essays written at home must be evaluative in nature, not merely descriptive, reflecting the student's own interpretation and judgment of the works discussed.
2. Reading journal of varied length for each novel read.
3. Essay portions on tests and final exam. They will involve evaluation, interpretation, and/or comparison/contrast.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.

Reading of short stories and/or novels. Since several novels are required, over 1000 pages will be read over the course of the semester.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
 laboratory
 lecture-laboratory combination

_____ directed study

Use of lecture to explain, illustrate, and reinforce the various expectations and conventions of sf.

Possible use of films for comparison purposes and to illustrate one interpretation of the written material.

Use of discussion to analyze the expectations of the readers, to discover the interpretations and world views of the various authors, and to allow students to evaluate the validity of those views within the context of their own philosophy.

DISTANCE LEARNING:

This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes _____ No X

If yes, check all that apply:

- _____ Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- _____ Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- _____ Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- _____ One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- _____ Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Graded only. Grading policy is in compliance with college standards described in the Palomar College catalog and the Faculty Manual.

Papers	20-50%
Exams	40-60%
Homework	up to 20%
Class participation	up to 10%

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes _____ No X Number of times course may be taken for credit: _____

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Zacharias, extension 2710

SIGNATURES ON FILE: