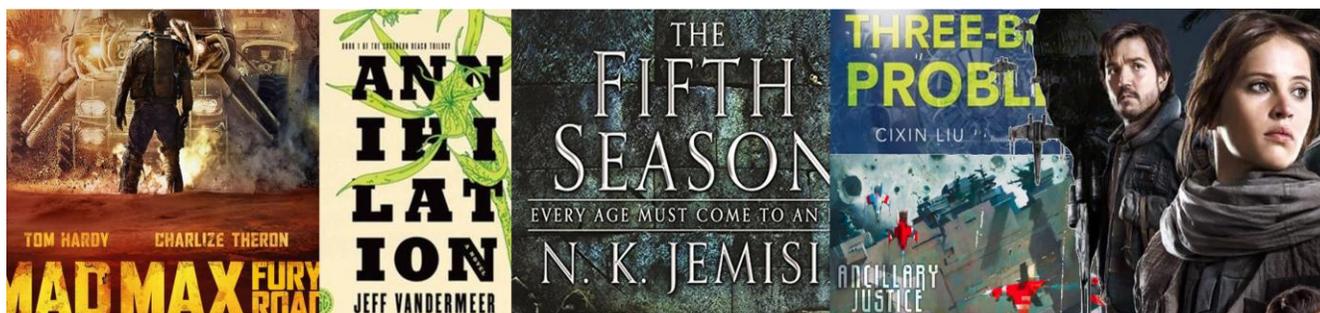


English 102H1S: Science and Literature



Appropriate for non-humanities students. Like science fiction? Argue with your friends about the depiction of future and fictional worlds? Want to learn how to talk with more sophistication about what you like and dislike about art, fiction, and film? Ever wonder what science fiction novels, stories, and movies tell us about ourselves, our future as a species, the trajectory of technology? *Then this class is for you.*

This class aims to develop a critical appreciation of popular science fiction, popular culture, and film from the perspective of literary analysis. Central to critical appreciation is the recognition of literature as carefully crafted art form, which basically means coming up with a cogent account of

- what a piece of literature “means,”
- what it is trying to do to/for the reader,
- what technical, verbal, and structural choices the author has made and how they contribute to the overall experience of reading, and so on.

We will watch and read works of contemporary science fiction that ask questions about the political ramifications of technology (*Rogue One*); that ask us to think about the human in new ways (*Ready Player One*); that consider our relationship to the fragile planet on which we depend (*Fifth Season* and *Annihilation*); that consider different perspectives for considering human reason in relation to alien reason (*Ancillary Justice* and *The Three Body Problem*). Along the way we will practice expressing our opinions in various media: videos, “best” lists, position statements. **All writing required is informal, though it will prepare students for more formal academic writing.**

Likely texts:

- *Rogue One* [film] dir. Gareth Edwards (2016)
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline (2011)
- *The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu, trans. Ken Liu (2014)
- *Annihilation* Jeff VanderMeer (2014)
- *The Fifth Season* N.K. Jemison (2015)
- *Ancillary Justice* Ann Leckie (2013)
- *The Core* [film] dir. Jon Amiel (2003)
- *Mad Max: Fury Road* [film] dir. George Miller (2015)

Please note that this course does not count towards any programs in English.