

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 C-LIT 242, B1: Science Fiction
(Summer Term, Jul 8 – Aug 14)

Instructor: Jennifer Quist

Office: Arts/Convocation Hall 446-C

E-mail: jlquist@ualberta.ca

Time: MWF 9:00-10:50 pm

Place: Tory 1-96

Office Hours: M 11-12pm or by appointment

Course Prerequisite: N/A

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course introduces science fiction as an international genre through a survey of its works, trends, subgenres, and theoretical bases. Students will acquire critical tools for appreciating and analysing science fiction produced in film, television, and print media as well as digital media including fan-fiction. Historical roots, critical roots and implications, and the enduring significance of both literary and popular science fiction will be explored along with the ongoing role science fiction plays in addressing questions including those of identity, humanism and posthumanism.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Describe the historical development of science fiction, its international scope, and its continuing role in contemporary culture
- Compose reviews of works of science fiction which make critical and contextual connections beyond simple personal preferences
- Identify and describe sub-genres of science fiction
- Analyse storytelling formulae in popular science fiction and demonstrate their use
- Present literary analyses both orally and in writing

Required Texts:

Ito, Junji. *Frankenstein: Junji Ito Story Collection*. VIZ Media, 2018. (English Edition)

Other short stories, readings, and films will be available in class and on eclass.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation and attendance	15%	ongoing
Content Quizzes (2)	10% (5% each)	Wed. Jul 17, Fri. Jul 26
Group Presentation	25%	MWF Aug 5, 7 & 9
Reviews (2 @ 500-600 words)	20% (10% each)	Fri. Jul 19, Mon. Jul 31
Final Critical Essay or Creative Project (2000-2500 words)	30%	Wed. Aug 14

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation and Attendance (15%): Class participation will be assessed based on students’ contributions to in-class discussions. To make contributions possible and meaningful, it is expected that assigned readings will be completed before class. Attendance will be recorded, and if absences exceed more than the one allowable unexcused absence, 1% of the mark will be deducted per ensuing incident.

Content Quizzes (10% - 2 for 5% each) To motivate students to complete assigned readings on time, two quizzes will be given to evaluate their knowledge of the readings’ contents. The quizzes will consist of five short-answer questions completed in class.

Group Presentation (25%): In groups of two (or three if needed), students will make critical presentations of works of science fiction to the class. Presentation topics must be approved by the instructor by Wednesday July 24. Plot summaries should form only a small part of presentations, with most of the time devoted to critical analyses including drawing connections to cultural, theoretical and social contexts. All presentations will be accompanied by a slide show (no video longer than a 6 second GIF is permitted, marks will be deducted for expending presentation time playing videos). Slide shows are to be uploaded to eclass in PPT or Google Slides formats by 11pm on the day before the presentation is to be given. No bibliography is required but be prepared to support your claims by orally reporting sources if asked. The presentation portion will be **no longer than ten minutes** in length, followed by a roughly **two minute question period**. Pacing of presentation time is a learning outcome of this project which means rehearsal and time control is vital.

Reviews (20% - 2 for 10% each): Two 500-600 word reviews of science fiction texts (stories, books, films, TV) are assigned to promote engagement with the texts and to develop critical review skills beyond expressing a personal preference, which may transfer to real world academic, journalistic, and online activities. Reviews should contain minimal plot summarizing. Instead, students will learn to venture into aesthetic and critical considerations and draw connections between texts and to larger cultural contexts. Sample professional reviews will be provided in class to serve as loose models for student reviews.

Final Paper or Creative Project (30%): The final project takes the place of a final exam for this class and is due on eclass by the end of our assigned final exam period at 6pm on Wednesday August 14. The project may take either of two forms:

- 1) *Traditional Critical Essay* - Students may choose to write a traditional critical essay on a work of science fiction. Topics must be submitted to the instructor for approval no later than July 24. The finished essay, including a “Works Cited” page prepared in **MLA format**, will be 2000-2500 words in length.

OR

- 2) *Creative Project* - Students may write an original work of science fiction. Due to the shortness of our compressed summer semester, stories rendered as visual art will not be permitted—text only. The project itself should be no less than 2000 words long. An additional 500-750 word author’s note must accompany each creative project, explaining the writer’s creative process and the critical and aesthetic rationale behind key choices they have made.

Whether students choose the traditional essay or the creative project, the final project must total 2000-2500 words. This includes a properly composed works cited page formatted in the [Modern Languages Association \(MLA\)](#) style. More detailed information on the project and format will be provided in class.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Student Responsibilities:***Academic Integrity:***

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Language courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student’s own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused

absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, if absences exceed more than the one allowable unexcused absence, 1% of the attendance and participation mark will be deducted per ensuing incident.

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted to eclass on the dates specified in the course outline.

Students who consult with the instructor **in advance** regarding circumstances preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Such an extension will be granted only once throughout the course without penalty. In the case of additional late excused assignments, **half** of the mark assigned for the particular work will be deducted. Any assignment not submitted, or submitted late and without an excuse will receive a grade of **zero**.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p>Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72

<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59