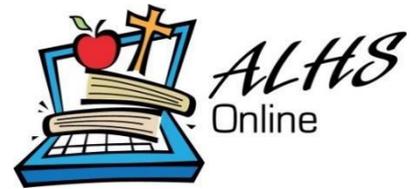


Science Fiction/Fantasy (SF) Literature

Course Syllabus 2020-21



Instructor: Kristin Knickelbein, kristin@smwels.org 414-436-3379

Grade Level: 11 – 12

Course Length: 1 semester

Credit: .5 credit

Prerequisites: Two years of high school English recommended (B- or better)

Description:

Time-traveling aliens, robots, dragons, steampunk, and dystopian societies are all commonplace in science fiction and fantasy literature. Students in this course will identify various key characteristics of science fiction and fantasy as a genre and the subsequent sub-genres, survey the history & themes, explore SF as a platform for social expression and criticism, and build an appreciation for the creative capacity of SF authors by delving into examples of SF literature such as *Fahrenheit 451*, *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *A Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *1984*, and *Neverwhere*.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify and define key characteristics, tropes, themes, motifs and language of science fiction (SF) & fantasy genres and sub-genres
- Survey the history of SF & fantasy
- Examine and discuss themes found in SF & fantasy
- Analyze SF as a platform for social expression/criticism
- Defend the genres of SF & Fantasy as premier genres for creative outlets
- Participate in a community of literature critics
- Make connections between in-course readings and outside knowledge and reading
- Engage in cognitive collaboration
- Reflect on the genres through the creation of an SF or fantasy world

Standards Addressed:

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.2
- Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement). CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.6
- By the end of grade 11 & 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.10

Course Outline:

August 25-December 17, 2020

Course Content

Unit 1: Deprogramming and Unthinking - Defining the Genre & Sub-Genres

Unit 2: Apocalyptic, Post-Apocalyptic, Utopian, Dystopian

Unit 3: Technology Advancement, AI, VR, Cloning, Data

Unit 4: Exploration, Alien Encounters & Time Travel

Unit 5: Superheroes

Unit 6: Sword & Sorcery, Fantasy of Manners, Historical Fantasy

Unit 7: Comic, Contemporary, & Dark Fantasy

Unit 8: High Fantasy

Final Project: World Building Work Weeks/Research

Course Materials:

Required textbooks:

1984 by George Orwell, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, *Novel of Choice*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman

Required software:

Access to a Google account

Other needed course materials will be made available via the online Learning Manage System (LMS).

Evaluation & Grading Scale:

Assignments: Each graded activity in the course is assigned a certain number of points. The course percentage grade will be determined by comparing the points earned out of points possible and then converting to a letter grade based on the grading scale below. Late assignments will lose points for being late. A student's current grade in the course will be available as we progress.

Grading Scale

98-100 A+	87-89 B+	87-89 C+	67-69 D+	
93-97 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D	0-59 F
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70+72 C-	60-62 D-	

Instructor Policies:

Expected of Students:

1. Check-in on the course on a daily basis, Monday through Friday. Generally, students have been scheduled by their school to work on this course at a specific time each school day. Be faithful in using this time to work on this course. Your contributions to discussions are vital to the success of this course. If you will be absent from class on a particular day, or if you miss class because of illness, be sure to let me know.
2. Expectations for this course are high but reasonable. Everyone is very busy with their other courses, activities, and responsibilities, yet you are expected to complete all work on time. If you need an extension of time, please make the request via private email prior to the due date.
3. Communicate! If you have questions or concerns on a particular assignment or activity, please send me a private email or make a public posting in the Instructor's Office Forum. Good two-way communication is very important to have a successful experience!

ALHS Online Policies:

Current ALHS Online policies are listed in the *Handbook for ALHS Online Students and Parents*, available on the ALHSO.org website. This includes policies on non-discrimination, anti-harassment, student expectations, attendance, academic honesty, student discipline, student grades, course add/drop, etc.

Please note the policy on **class attendance** which states in part:

“Even if a student’s local school does not have school on a particular day (snow day, teacher’s conference, quarter break, choral fest, class trip, etc.) ALHS Online courses will continue to meet and students are expected to complete required work on time.”

Students also fall under the policies of the school were they attend as a full-time student. When applicable, these same local school policies will be applied to enrollment in this ALHSO course.