

English 2305—Introduction to Fiction: Science Fiction and Society

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From its earliest incarnations, science fiction has been one of the most effective vehicles for exploring and interrogating the philosophical and ethical implications of a vast range of technological and social changes. Its enduring popularity and the never-ending innovations in science fiction storytelling across a variety of media only proves its incredible influence. In this course we will explore the connections between science fiction and society, such as the ethics of technological advancements, perceptions of reality and subjectivity, and issues of race and gender. We will examine science fiction across different media, including short stories, novels, and film.

In this course you will be expected to write a 4-6pp midterm paper, a 7-10pp final paper, and one class presentation (on a novel of your choice that is not already covered in class).

Required reading will include selections from *The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction*, as well as a number of novels including *Neuromancer* by William Gibson, *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K LeGuin, and *The City & the City* by China Mieville. More titles to be announced.