Course Information:
Section: 01  Term: Spring 2014  Time: TTH: 9:25-10:40  Location: MCF 205

Instructor Information:
Name: Price McMurray  e-mail: pmcmurray@txwes.edu  Ph.: 817-531-4905
Office: PUMC 254  Office Hours: T, W, TH 11:00-2:00; and by appt.

Syllabus as Guide: This course syllabus is intended to provide students in English 2326 with basic information concerning the course. This syllabus can be viewed as a “blueprint” for the course; changes in the syllabus may be made, but students will be informed of any substantial changes concerning examinations, grading or attendance policies, or project assignments.

Course Description: In this section of English 2326 we will explore American science fiction. The course will begin with an introductory unit on the history of science fiction, reading protocols, and some major themes and styles. We will then study a classic writer in depth before turning to two contemporary novels. As we progress through the term, we will also consider the nature of “genre” fiction, the challenges of defining and reading science fiction, and issues raised by the texts themselves.
Prerequisites: English 1301 and 1302.

Required texts:
- Course handouts and various online texts.

Objectives: English 2326 satisfies part of the General Education Language Literacy requirement (see pp. 90-3 in the 2011-2013 Undergraduate Catalog). In addition, the Department of Languages and Literature has identified learning objectives for this course. Specifically:

- To help students gain a broader understanding and appreciation of American literature;
- To help students develop an understanding of American literature in its historical context;
- To help students develop skills in expressing themselves orally and in writing;
To help students learn how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, etc.

**Instructional Methods:** Class meetings will include lecture and discussion; I will also incorporate appropriate videos and visual materials into the course.

**Academic Success Center:** The Academic Success Center provides free tutoring for writing, math, accounting, psychology, religion, history, logic, biology, and chemistry, workshops on academic skills, and individual academic assistance. The Center is located in the West Library on the ground floor. For more information, call 817-531-4219, or visit: [http://txwes.edu/academics/academic-success-center/](http://txwes.edu/academics/academic-success-center/).

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:** Below you will find a general overview of the course requirements and how they will be weighted when I determine your semester grade. I will provide more details about the assignments as the term progresses.

--- **Responses (25%).** For a literature class to work, people need to do the reading on a regular basis. Hence frequent writing responses 😊. Please review the following guidelines.

- In-class responses will take about 15 minutes.
- Out-of-class responses will be about 300 words typed. They must be submitted on the day they are due and will count twice as much as in-class responses.
- Responses may **not** be made up, but I will discard your 2 lowest grades.

--- **Research Paper (25%).** You will be expected to write a 4-5-page research paper on one of the novels we will read. I will distribute an assignment sheet with a list of possible topics, resources, and interim deadlines once the term is under way.

--- **Creative Writing Assignment (25%).** You will write a story (or the first chapter[s] of a novel) in the speculative/science fiction genre. We will workshop ideas and drafts. There is some flexibility about length, but you should expect to write at least 2,500 words. **Note:** The class will vote on the best submission, and the author will receive an extra 20 points on the final.

--- **Final Exam (25%).** Because I expect you to integrate your learning from class to class and week to week, the final will be cumulative and cover all the reading on the syllabus. You should get in the habit of reading, taking notes, and the like. I am setting aside a week of class time for us to review and prepare.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** I follow the attendance policy outlined on p. 101 of the Undergraduate Catalog:

--You are allowed a maximum of **three (3) authorized absences**. An absence is authorized when you represent the University (e.g., sports, student government, etc.) or
the activity is part of a course (e.g., a field trip). Additional authorized absences will be granted only for unusual circumstances (e.g., post-season tournaments).

--You are allowed a maximum of three (3) unauthorized absences. Any absence that is not an authorized absence is by definition an unauthorized absence. *I will excuse three (3) unauthorized absences* for illness, family problems, work emergencies, etc.

If you accumulate 3 unauthorized absences, I will send a note to your University e-mail account notifying you that you are in danger of being dropped from the course. **Note:** I reserve the right to exercise discretion should someone have unusual circumstances; in some cases, it may be possible to “buy back” an absence with an additional writing assignment.

**Tardies/Early Departures:** Two tardies—defined as arriving ten or more minutes late—will count as one absence. Two early departures will also count as one absence.

**Electronic Devices.** Phones should be set to vibrate. Smart phones, I-pads, laptops, etc. should be put away during class unless they are being used to read a course text. Failure to comply with this rule will have the following consequences:

- A first offense will result in a warning (recorded in my grade book).
- For a second offense, I will send you home and mark you absent for the day.
- For a third offense, I will reduce your semester average 5 points.
- A fourth (and any subsequent) offense will result in a 10-point reduction in your semester average.

**Textbooks:** You need to bring your books to class. Failure to bring the appropriate book (or handout or device to read the day’s assignment) to class will have the following consequences:

- A first offense will result in a warning (recorded in my grade book).
- For a second offense, I will send you home and mark you absent for the day.
- For a third offense, I will reduce your semester average 5 points.
- A fourth (and any subsequent) offense will result in a 10-point reduction in your semester average.

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**UNIVERSITY POLICIES:** Students should read the current Texas Wesleyan University Undergraduate Catalog and Student Handbook to become familiar with University policies. These policies include but are not limited to grade appeal, sexual harassment, student access to records, and others; policies specified in the current catalog are applicable unless otherwise stated in this syllabus.
Academic Integrity: See pp. 68-70 of the Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2013.

American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA): Texas Wesleyan University adheres to a disability policy which is in keeping with relevant federal law. The University will provide appropriate accommodation as determined by the Director of the Counseling Center, Dr. Michael Ellison. Students must notify instructors of any permanent or temporary disabilities and must provide documentation regarding those disabilities prior to the granting of an accommodation. For assistance, students should consult with Dr. Ellison, who may be reached at (817) 531-7565.

Repeating Courses: Any course taken at Texas Wesleyan University and repeated for a grade must be repeated at Texas Wesleyan University. Any course taken at another institution may be repeated at Texas Wesleyan, and the most recent grade on the course will be counted. When a course is repeated, the grade point average will be computed using the most recent grade achieved.

Schedule of Reading Assignments and Major Due Dates

Unit One: A Brief Introduction to Science Fiction

Week 1   TH   1/16   Introduction to the course
Week 2   T   1/21   A brief history of science fiction
    TH   1/23   Read: Shelley, Frankenstein (excerpt)
Week 3   T   1/28   Read: Hawthorne, “The Birth-Mark”
    TH   1/30   Read: Greenberg, “My Monster, My Self”
Week 4   T   2/4    Read: Butler, “Bloodchild”
    TH   2/6    Read: Herbert, Dune (excerpt) and Gibson, Neuromancer (excerpt)

Unit Two: A Writer in Depth (Philip K. Dick)

Week 5   T   2/11   Read: “We Can Remember It for You Wholesale”
    TH   2/13   Read: “The Minority Report”
Week 6   T   2/18   Read: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? (chaps. 1-6)
    TH   2/20   Read: Do Androids… (chaps. 7-9)
Week 7   T   2/25   Read: Do Androids… (chaps. 10-15)
    TH   2/27   Read: Do Androids… (chaps. 16-22)
Week 8   T   3/4    Read: Liu, “Algorithms for Love”
    TH   3/6    Read: TBA
Week 9   T   3/11   Spring Break—no class
    TH   3/13   Spring Break—no class
## Unit Three: Two Contemporary Novels

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Read: Collins, <em>The Hunger Games</em> (chaps. 1-4)</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Hunger Games</em> (chaps. 5-9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Hunger Games</em> (chaps. 10-18)</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Hunger Games</em> (chaps. 19-27)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Read: TBA</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Circle</em>, pp. 51-151</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Circle</em>, pp. 151-251</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>4/15</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Circle</em>, pp. 251-351</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Easter—no class</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>Read: <em>The Circle</em>, pp. 351-491</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>Read: TBA</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Read: Ollman, “Why So Many Exams?”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TH</td>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Review for exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Review for exam</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>5/8</td>
<td><strong>Exam</strong> (8:00 AM)</td>
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### Notes: