

Course discipline/number/title: PHIL 2001: Science Fiction and Philosophy

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3 Lecture
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
4. Other requirements: None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy, Goal 7/Human Diversity

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore philosophical themes in the context of science fiction (and fantasy) literature and film. Major topics include the relationship between mind and body, the nature of scientific inquiry, and issues concerning social and political philosophy and the philosophy of race and gender. Students will learn to apply basic methods of philosophical inquiry and will engage with work from a culturally diverse selection of authors and filmmakers. The material will be selected with a goal of expanding the students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially as this relates to ideas, values, and institutions. Particular attention will be given to the cultivation of critical reading and writing. College level reading and writing is recommended.

C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): October, 2019

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

The following content areas will be explored in the context of science fiction film and literature:

1. Philosophical Methodology
2. Social and Political Philosophy
3. Metaphysics and/or Philosophy of Mind
4. Epistemology and/or Philosophy of Science
5. Theoretical and Applied Ethics
6. Other Topics as Appropriate

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

1. Identify the major areas of philosophical inquiry.
2. Analyze abstract philosophical concepts relevant to understanding science fiction film and literature.
3. Read and respond critically to philosophical issues raised in science fiction film and literature.
4. Formulate extended verbal and written arguments in response to these issues.
5. Appreciate multiculturalism and understand other world views.
6. Formulate their own philosophical positions and justify them according to the course material.

F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:

1. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
2. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
3. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Methods may include but are not limited to:

1. Papers
2. Tests and quizzes
3. Individual and group activities



- H. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S). This course contributes to meeting the following RCTC Core Outcome(s):
Global Awareness and Diversity. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and respect for human diversity through their words and actions.

- I. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None