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):
   4. Other requirements: College level reading and writing is recommended
   5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy, Goal 7a/Human Diversity, Goal 7b/Race Power and Justice

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 to expand the students' knowledge of the human condition and cultures, especially regarding ideas, values, and institutions. Particular attention will be given to the cultivation of critical reading and writing.

C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): November, 2024

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
   A selection from the following content areas will be explored in the context of science fiction film and literature:
   1. Philosophical Methodology
   2. Justice and Equality
   3. War and Terrorism
   4. Philosophy of Sex and Gender
   5. Philosophy and Race
   6. Philosophy of Science and Mind
   7. Knowledge and Skepticism
   8. Free Will and Personal Identity
   9. God and Religion
   10. Existentialism and/or the Meaning of Life
   11. Theoretical and Applied Ethics
   12. Philosophy of Film and Literature

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. Critically examine ideas about race, gender, and sex
   5. Formulate extended verbal and written arguments in response to these issues.
   6. Appreciate multiculturalism and understand other world views.
   7. 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 7a/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.

F.   LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued. . .
     Goal 7b/Race, Power and Justice: The student will be able to:
     1. Examine significant challenges of and contributions by people in the United States who have experienced racism and other forms of oppression such as sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, transphobia, antisemitism, and Islamophobia.
     2. Identify communication and relational skills necessary for living and working effectively in a racially, culturally, ethnically, and linguistically stratified society with historic and ongoing practices and structures of exclusion.
     3. Identify socially just and antiracist practices that increase equitable outcomes and inclusion in the United States.

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