

# English 4396 Speculative Science Fiction

Spring 2011 T/Th 1:00-2:30 102 Roy Cullen

Dr. Natalie M. Houston  
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236-D Roy Cullen  
713-743-2979  
office hours: Thurs 2:30-3:30  
and by appointment

## Course Requirements/Grading

- ▶ be prepared for class
- ▶ class participation (20%)
- ▶ weekly informal responses/groups (20%)
- ▶ 3-minute presentation/roundtable (15%)
- ▶ 3-page essay (15%)
- ▶ final paper (6-8pp) (30%)

**Preparation** for class includes: keeping up with the reading; reviewing the study questions; writing down ideas and questions for discussion; bringing all necessary notes and texts with you to class.

**Participation** includes your individual contributions and your work in groups during class. Groups will be assigned and will rotate during the semester.

**One-Page Responses** to the reading are due each week to Turnitin (via link in BB) by 11:30 on Tuesdays. 3 paper copies are required in class to distribute to your response group. You receive full credit for writing a response and turning it in on time. Thursday's discussion will partly be in groups.

Responses may be turned in as late (with penalty) only until Friday noon of the same week. I will not accept any responses after Friday noon of the week in which they were due without documentation of a medical or family emergency.

**3-Minute Presentation/Short Essay** will analyze one of the optional novels.

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## Novels

- \*H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (1895)
- Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (1932)
- \*Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451* (1951)
- \*Isaac Asimov, *I Robot* (1950)
- Samuel Delany, *Babel-17* (1966)
- \*Philip K Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (1968)
- Ursula K LeGuin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)
- William Gibson, *Neuromancer* (1984)
- Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985)
- Nicola Griffith, *Slow River* (1994)
- Richard Powers, *Galatea 2.2* (1995)
- Peter Watts, *Blindsight* (2006)

## Core Principles

**Be present.** Take care of your personal errands before class, silence your cell phone, arrive and settle in to fully be present for 75 minutes.

**Focus.** Review your notes on the reading. Think about what seems most important and interesting to you. What questions do you have about the material?

**Connect.** Listen to what others in the room are saying. Contribute your observations and ideas. Pay attention to what resonates with you -- in the text, in the lecture, or in the discussion.

**Regular class attendance** is rewarded:

- if you actively participate and miss 0-1 classes, your final course grade is raised 4%
- if you actively participate and miss 2-3 classes, your final course grade is raised 2%

Absences are not penalized, but significant absences will harm your performance on course assignments.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of another person's work as your own. If you are discovered to have plagiarized in completing any course assignment, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Under Department and College policy, you may also fail the course.

T 1/18	Introduction
Th 1/20	Huxley chapters 1-6
T 1/25	Huxley chapters 7-end; <u>R1</u>
Th 1/27	Atwood chapters 1-6
1/28-31	<i>sign up for *novel via email</i>
T 2/1	Atwood chapters 7-11; <u>R2</u>
Th 2/3	Atwood chapters 12-end
T 2/8	Delany parts 1-2; <u>R3</u>
Th 2/10	Delany parts 3-5
T 2/15	LeGuin chapters 1-8; <u>R4</u>
Th 2/17	LeGuin chapters 9-14
T 2/22	LeGuin chapters 15-end; <u>R5</u>
Th 2/24	catch up day
T 3/1	<u>presentations</u> : Wells and Asimov;
Th 3/3	<u>presentations</u> : Bradbury and Dick
T 3/8	Gibson chapters 1-7; <u>R6</u>
Th 3/10	Gibson chapters 8-16
F 3/11	<u>3-page papers due by 5pm</u>
T 3/15	SPRING BREAK
Th 3/17	SPRING BREAK
T 3/22	Gibson chapters 17-end; <u>R7</u>
Th 3/24	Griffith chapters 1-8
T 3/29	Griffith chapters 9-15; <u>R8</u>
Th 3/31	Griffith chapters 16-end
T 4/5	Watts pp1-90; <u>R9</u>

Th 4/7	Watts pp91-208
T 4/12	Watts pp209-294; <u>R10</u>
Th 4/14	Watts 295-end
T 4/19	catch up day; <u>R11</u>
Th 4/21	Powers pp3-103
T 4/26	Powers pp103-210; <u>R12</u>
Th 4/28	Powers pp210-end
T 5/3	<u>Final Papers due by 5 pm</u>