HL3011
Science Fiction: Origins to Parody

 Tracing its origins from nineteenth-century writing on the possibilities and threats of technology and the newly established sciences to its genre reconstruction and intertextual revisiting over the centuries, the analysis of its most prominent as well as of recently rediscovered works aims to illustrate how science fiction has transformed literature and film. In this, it also seeks to map the genre's most defining topoi: travel through space, time, and parallel universes; experimental technology; alien life; testing the boundaries of the mind and manipulating the body (cloning). Science fiction has always been experimental in its technique as well as in its criticism of social, psychological, and scientific definitions of selfhood, and its study taps into encompassing explorations of epistemological as well as ontological anxieties.

This course specifically addresses genre formation. We shall be looking at a number of different texts, and students will need to read beyond the "core texts."

This course is 100% CA (Continuous Assessment).

Essay: 50%
Group Presentation 20%
Participation in class: 10%
In-class quiz: 20%

Note: Use of Generative AI is NOT permitted in this course.

Core Texts:

Please note that the presentations will be on texts outside the core texts.

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* **(1818)**
H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* **(1895)**
James Whale, *The Bride of Frankenstein* **(1935)**
Isaac Asimov, *I, Robot* **(1950)**
George Pal, *The Time Machine* **(1960)**
*Star Trek***: "The City on the Edge of Forever" (1967)**
Brian Aldiss, "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long" (1969)
http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/5.01/ffsupertoys_pr.html
Steven Spielberg, *E.T.* **(1982)**
*Star Trek: TNG***: "The Measure of a Man" (1989)**
Galaxy Quest **(1999)**
Steven Spielberg, *A.I. Artificial Intelligence* **(2001)**
Chris Miller and Phil Lord, *The Lego Movie* **(2014)**

Preliminary Lecture Outline

Week No.	Topics	Readings
13 Aug	Introduction	Outline: Structure & Requirements
20 Aug	Science of the Times I: Making Good Monsters	*Frankenstein*
27 Aug	Science of the Times II: Mad Scientists	*Frankenstein; The Bride of Frankenstein*
3 Sept	Science of the Times III: Dystopia	*The Time Machine*
10 Sept	Time Travel I: The Future	*The Time Machine; The Lego Movie*
17 Sept	Time Travel II: The Past and its Alternatives	"The City on the Edge of Forever"
24 Sept	Group Presentations	
1 Oct	*Recess*	
8 Oct	Group Presentations	
15 Oct	Aliens	*E.T.*
22 Oct	Robot Stories to A.I.	*I, Robot;* "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long"; "The Measure of a Man"; *A.I.*
29 Oct	Science Fiction Comedy	*Galaxy Quest*
5 Nov	Revision	*Quiz*