
Short Title: Invisible Lit

Lecturer: Dr Bernice M. Murphy

ECTS: 10

One term course (Hilary 2017)

Assessment: Exam

Option Learning Aims:
J.G. Ballard remarked in 1971 that: “Everything is becoming Science Fiction. From the margins of an almost invisible literature has sprung the almost intact reality of the twentieth century”. Taking Ballard’s observation as a starting point, this course traced the development of Science Fiction, one of the most exciting, yet most consistently underrated literary genres, from the end of the nineteenth century to the present day. During this single term course we shall discuss novels and short stories by many of the genres most influential authors, as well as discuss the many different types of Science Fiction (Space Opera, Planetary Romance, Alternate History, etc) and the way in which they have evolved throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Students will be assigned selected critical reading for each class, in addition to the primary texts listed below.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this module the student should be able to:

1. Recognise and distinguish between the major tropes and plot templates that constitute the Science Fiction genre
2. Identify and describe the origins and development of the Science Fiction genre, particularly as it evolved during the twentieth-century
3. Evaluate key works by major authors and with the reasons why these texts are particularly significant within the genre
4. Differentiate between significant theoretical approaches to the genre

Option Content:

1. Introducing Science Fiction (Critical reading will be provided on Blackboard)


3. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
4. *High-Rise* by J.G. Ballard

5. *Enders Game* by Orson Scott Card

6. *Roadside Picnic* by Boris Strugatsky and Arkady Strugatsky

**7. READING WEEK**

8. *The Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin

9. *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood

10. *Under the Skin* by Michel Faber

11. *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

12. *The Circle* by Dave Eggers