

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

Science Fiction, Film and Culture

2. **COURSE CODE**

HUMN3046

3. **No. OF UNITS**

3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. **PREREQUISITES**

N.A.

COREQUISITES

N.A.

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

English

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to examine science fiction through some of its most influential works in the novel, short story, and film. Science fiction and film are the cultural forms that reflect how we understand our world. The possible worlds that science fiction writers and filmmakers predicted do not only offer to conceive some alternate systems but also represent contemplations on radical difference and otherness as well as the ideological nature of our social totality. This course examines how the imaginations of science fiction and film are connected to the historical and collective fantasy of our social world. The culture of science fiction and film, seemingly distanced from its social context, precisely serves as a critique of the latter, by ruminating on the ideological mechanism of virtual reality, human-machine, future institutions, alien races, and the nature of humanity. This course will not only assess the development of science fiction as a popular genre from the early decades of the twentieth century to the explosion of science fiction from the 1950s to the present, but it also traces back to the "proto-science fiction writers" of the renaissance and eighteenth century through the evolution of science fiction in the nineteenth century with Shelley, Poe, Verne, and others. In addition, the course will explore why the science fiction genre is missing in Chinese culture.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

- I. Definition and History of Science Fiction and Film
- II. Utopia and Metropolis
- III. Journey of Lonesome Her, Time Travel and Space Odyssey
- IV. Invasion of Aliens and Other Creatures
- V. Apocalypse, Doomsday and the Visions of the Future
- VI. Race, Space, Sex Roles and Class
- VII. Chinese Encounters of Science Fiction

9. **COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)**

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Analyze the fundamental definitions and historical development of science fiction film and its relation to the social world
CILO 2	Analyze the ideological mechanism of science fiction film
CILO 3	Conduct research in science fiction issues and questions
CILO 4	Present thoughts on the formation and the nature of science of fiction based on their historical developments

10. **TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)**

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	The students will be: reviewing and critically analyzing the fundamental definitions and historical developments of science fiction film and its relation to the social world during lectures
2	stimulated to refer critically to historical events, current news and cultural texts during lectures and discussions to explain the ideological mechanism of science fiction film
3	assisted in their planning and execution of research on topics pertaining to issues and questions of science fiction during tutorials by step-by-step guidance
4	aided with carefully designed in-class teaching and learning activities to supplement academic reference allowing them to appreciate the formation and the nature of science fiction and engage critically in the historical developments of the genre in different media

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Assignments	30%	3-4	Assignments will test the students' ability to independently carry out research on topics related to science fiction
Term Paper	30%	3-4	Term Paper will test the students' ability to appreciate and discover differences in the formation and the nature of science fiction and engage critically in the historical developments of the genre

Examination	40%	1-2	The examination will test the students' ability to: identify and explain the major concepts and issues of science fiction and to evaluate the ideological mechanism of science fiction film
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