San José State University Department of English and Comparative Literature ENGL 22: Fantasy and Science Fiction, Section 99, FALL 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Tanja Nathanael

Office Location: Canvas/Online

Telephone: Contact via email, Canvas messaging, and Zoom will be utilized.

Email: Tanja.Nathanael@sjsu.edu (Please use Canvas messaging when available).

Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Days/Time: Online

Classroom: Canvas/Online

Prerequisites: None.

GE/SJSU Studies Category: English 22 fulfills the lower division GE requirement in Arts and

Letters (C2)

Course Format

Online Course

This course adopts an online delivery format. Video lectures will be posted weekly on Canvas. To keep pace with the course, students are required to view the lectures online in a timely manner in order to gain mastery of the material. While viewing the recorded lectures, students are strongly recommended to listen carefully, pay attention, and take notes just as you would in class. To best view and access the online content, students must have consistent, reliable, high-speed internet access, using a PC or MAC or other compatible device. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to check for compatibility. Technical issues will not be considered a valid excuse for failure to view lectures or submit assignments on time. That being said, students who diligently seek help from technical support and communicate clearly with me will be allowed a certain amount of grace. See University Policy S16-9 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) for more details.

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the <u>Canvas Learning Management System course login website</u> at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through <u>MySJSU</u> on <u>Spartan App Portal</u> http://one.sjsu.edu to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Students will examine works of literary fantasy and science fiction to understand them as expressions of human intellect and imagination; to comprehend their historical and cultural contexts; and to recognize their diverse cultural traditions. Both contemporary and historical works will be studied.

Course Theme

American and British Fantasy and Science Fiction: Frontiers of Inner and Outer Spaces

"In England, 100 miles is a long way. In America, 100 years is a long time. In England, you have to go back [in time] to find [a good story]. In America, you have to drive to find it."—Neil Gaiman

During this course we will examine texts that explore the frontiers of the imagination in both fantasy and science fiction. As British fantasy author Neil Gaiman has observed, the British tend to be more successful fantasists due to their comparatively long mythic history, while American writers have excelled in the genre of science fiction, due in part perhaps from an inherited historical ideal to explore the frontier. And yet, as we will discover, there are exceptions to this understanding in both cases. Additional themes of subgenre, gender, and diverse voices will also be explored.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELOs) Letters courses will enable students to...

Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns; respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses; write clearly and effectively; and recognize the role of diversity in culture and society. Thus, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Explain how major works of Fantasy and Science Fiction illuminate enduring human concerns, satisfied by responses orally and in writing, including in- and out-of-class discussions, quizzes, free responses, and tests.
- 2. Link personal and research-based responses to the content and style of major works of Fantasy and Science Fiction, by writing both responses and a research-based essay.
- 3. Write more effective academic arguments, through essays written for this class.
- 4. Explain their views of the role of diversity in culture and society by reflecting orally and in writing on this aspect of works of Fantasy and Science Fiction.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

In addition to the General Education Learning Outcomes, English 22 has the goals of enlarging students' awareness of the possibilities of language and literature to enrich their lives, and to find pleasure as well as challenge in the activity of interpretation—to see interpretation as a creative response to the stimulus of the works being read and discussed. Thus, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Respond creatively to literary texts.
- 2. Compare and contrast a work's effectiveness when it is translated from one genre (book) to another (film).

Required Texts/Readings

Six novels plus selected short stories, poems, and essays. Some readings (short stories or articles) will be available via .PDF documents on Canvas or via the links available below. All of the novels listed below are available in online and paperback editions through the campus bookstore or other online venues.

Adams, Douglas. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0345391803

Or on Kindle here.

Aldiss, Brian W. "Supertoys Last All Summer Long" (1969) (.PDF provided)

Baum, L. Frank. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-1985261808

Or on Kindle here.

Bisson, Terry. "Meat" (1990)

Bradbury, Ray. "The Million Year Picnic" (1946)

Burns, Robert. "Tam O'Shanter" (1791)

Cherryh, C. J. "The Scapegoat" (1985) (.PDF provided)

Delany, Samuel R. "Driftglass" (1971)

Audio via podcast LeVar Burton Reads: February 5, 2019.

McCaffrey, Anne. "The Ship Who Sang" (1985)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0345334312

On Kindle here.

Gibson, William. "Johnny Mnemonic" (1981)

Irving, Washington. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (1820)

Le Guin, Ursula. A Wizard of Earthsea (1968)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0547722023

Or on Kindle here.

Liu, Ken. "Mono No Aware" (2013)

Audio via podcast LeVar Burton Reads: February 12, 2019.

Lovecraft, H. P. "Dagon" (1919)

Moore, C. L. "Shambleau" (1933)

Okorofor, Nnedi. Binti (2015)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0765385253

Or on Kindle here.

Rowling, J. K. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (1998)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0439708180

Or on Kindle here.

Tolkien, J. R. R. The Hobbit (1937)

Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-0345339683

Or on Kindle here.

Non-fiction essays and TED Talks as assigned. See Canvas for details.

Other technology requirements

You will be required to create a **Zoom** account to participate in one-on-one conferences and group discussions. Creation of a **Zoom** account is free of charge.

Course Grading Requirements and Assignments

NOTE: Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities; that is, expect to dedicate about 10 hours per week to this course. See breakdown of grading and assignment descriptions below.

Determination of Grades

Grades are determined on a 100-point scale, as follows:

10 points = Module 0 Quiz (Getting Started materials)

10 points = Module 1 Quiz (includes required weekly lectures & reading assignments)

10 points = Module 2 Quiz (includes required weekly lectures & reading assignments)

10 points = Module 3 Quiz (includes required weekly lectures & reading assignments)

10 points = Short Essay (to be completed after Module 1)

10 points = Team Project (to be completed after Module 2)

10 points = Diversity Project (to be completed after Module 3)

10 points = Side Quests (Participation Badges; 10 minimum required)

20 points = Final

100 points total

Grading Scale:

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 0-59

This course must be passed with a D- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Description of Assignments

Module Quizzes (40 points; 4 quizzes at 10 points each)

Module quizzes will be taken online in Canvas and will be available during a seven day window at the conclusion of each module (see schedule for details). Once the window is closed, no one may take the exam except with a university approved excuse (illness, etc.) Module quizzes will consist of 10 questions at one point each. Module quizzes will contain a selection of matching, multiple choice, short answer questions. Study guides and practice quizzes will be available. (GELO 1, 4)

Short Essay (10 points total; 3-4 pages, or 750-1000 words required)

Students will demonstrate their ability to critically evaluate literature and defend a position in a three to four page critical essay. Some additional research will be required and essays must quote from credible academic

sources with citations. Successful essays will have a clear thesis, present ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form, and use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage. Formal assignment sheets and grading rubrics will be distributed at the time the essays are assigned. Calendar lists due date.

Note: Library Liaison for the Department of English is Toby Matoush.

(GELO 2, 3)

Team Project (10 points total; minimum 3-4 pages, or 750-1000 words required, but may vary)

Design a Wizard School.

Working in teams of three or four, students will brainstorm and design their own wizard school. Wizard school designs may be inspired by but are expected to be creatively different from Harry Potter's Hogwarts and Ged's Roke. Student teams will be expected to set up a regular meeting schedule to discuss a project plan, assigned roles, and expected outcomes. Student teams may utilize email, phone calls, and Zoom, to conduct their meetings, depending on individual schedules. Students will be graded individually on their roles as a team member and their contribution to the overall project. Grading criteria will include: 1) analysis of overall project; 2) analysis of contribution to project; 3) project decompression survey. Formal assignment sheets and grading rubrics will be distributed at the time the project is assigned. Calendar lists due date. (GELO 3, CLO 1)

Diversity Project (10 points total; minimum 2-3 pages, or 600-750 words, but may vary)

Diversify a Sci-Fi or Fantasy Text for a Film Adaptation.

Students will select one text from the course reading list to diversify and pitch as a film adaptation of their own design. To pitch the adaptation of the selected text, the student will write a synopsis, establishing the setting, and then describe the main characters physically, emotionally, and intellectually. Cast each character with a real TV or Film actor with consideration to cross-gender and diverse casting. What stylistic or artistic choices would you make as the director of this film? Especially consider what different choices you could make if this text has already been adapted to film. Grading Criteria: 1) Original adaptation idea, 2) Vivid description of characters and setting, 3) Good synopsis, 4) Correct usage and style, 5) Creative response to possibilities of "adaptation" (updating) and justification of those choices—not just a simple transfer of the story to the visual medium, 6) Images and/or storyboards. Formal assignment sheets and grading rubrics will be distributed at the time the project is assigned. Calendar lists due date. (GELO 3, CLO 1)

Side Quests (Participation Badges; 10 minimum required)

Each week students will be given the opportunity to complete "Side Quests" to earn participation credit, as well as other rewards. Side Quests will consist of a selection small activities in which the student may demonstrate additional knowledge or skills based on the current week's assignments. The completion of one Side Quest = one badge. Over the 16 week semester, students are only required to achieve 10 badges to earn participation credit. However, students may earn more badges to gain additional privileges, such as raising a quiz or essay grade. Activities include: illustrating a text, watching a TED Talk, reading an article, attending a Zoom meeting, and more. See Side Quests in Canvas for more details. (GELO 1, 2, 4)

Final Examination (20 points)

The Final Exam will be taken online in Canvas and will be available during a seven day window during Finals Week. Once the window is closed, no one may take the exam except with a university approved excuse (illness, etc.) The Final will consist of 20 questions at one point each. The Final will contain a selection of matching, multiple choice, short answer questions. A study guide will be provided. (GELO 1, 4)

Grading Information (Assignments linked to CLOs and GELOs)

Student progress will be assessed by means of essays and exams, along with a team project and some shorter assignments (side quests). Students will receive assignment sheets and rubrics—posted to Canvas and discussed in lectures—that will outline the specific expectations of the assignments. Students will receive written feedback on assignments along with a letter grade based on a 100-point scale. As this is an online class, students are encouraged to stay in regular contact with the instructor with regard to any questions about assignments or class expectations.

Specific grading criteria for assignments are indicated in the descriptions. Late papers and make-up exams must be arranged with the instructor. By department policy, in all English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: $A = \underbrace{excellent}_{}$; $B = \underbrace{above\ average}_{}$; $C = \underbrace{average}_{}$; $D = \underbrace{below\ average}_{}$; $F = \underbrace{failure}_{}$. For further details on essay grading, please check the $\underbrace{grading\ criteria\ page}_{}$ of the English 22 website.

Online Protocol

Instructor Office Hours and Email Contact

For this online class, I will keep weekly online office hours where I will be available in Canvas Chat to answer your questions. Please note that the Canvas Chat feature is public, allowing many students to join at once. While this is a convenient way to answer questions common to many of you, it is not the place to have a private conversation. Should you have need for a private conversation, say to discuss your grade, please email me and make an appointment where we can discuss other arrangements (for example, Zoom).

Email and Electronic Communication Etiquette

For this online course, we will do all of our writing in digital spaces—some formal, some informal. An important part of learning to be a successful student and writer is knowing what is appropriate in a given situation. An email to me, to any other faculty or staff member on campus, or to anyone in any position of authority must be respectful and professional in tone, should come from your official SJSU email account or Canvas message board, and should follow this format:

Subject: Request to schedule an appointment

*A subject line is always required and should clearly and briefly represent your purpose for emailing. Emails with no subject line may not be read.

Dear Professor Nathanael.

*Always use a formal address, such as Professor, Dr., Ms., Mr. Never use the person's first name unless you have been given explicit permission to do so.

I am a student in your ENGL 22 class, and I would like to schedule an appointment with you to discuss my essay draft. I am having trouble with my thesis statement and hope to get your help in clarifying it. Are you available to meet this Wednesday afternoon?

*State your question, concern, or request briefly and clearly, using standardized English. Maintain a polite, respectful tone and avoid using exclamation points, emoticons, texting abbreviations, or coarse language. Avoid asking questions that are answered on the syllabus or assignment sheet, such as "When is our paper due?" or "What is our homework for tomorrow?" Emails that are not professional in style or tone, or that ask questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or assignment sheets, may be ignored.

Thank you,

*Use a formal closing, such as "Sincerely," "Respectfully," "Thank you," or "Best regards."

Martha Jones

*Always sign your full name at the end of your email.

University Policies

Per <u>University Policy S16-9</u> (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available here. Information about late drop is available here. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well. Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic Integrity

Students should know that the University's <u>Academic Integrity Policy</u> is available on the university website. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of <u>Student Conduct and Ethical Development</u>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless

otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Accommodations for Disabled Employees & Students

Reasonable accommodations are made for students and employees who are accepted or work at San José State University.

The Accessible Education Center (AEC) counsels and serves students with disabilities.

The <u>Employment Accommodations Resource Center (EARC)</u> facilitates the provision of accommodations and services to employees with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA Compliance is the on-campus office for ADA Compliance issues for students and employees.

For more information, see ADA Compliance or Unlawful Discrimination.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audiovisual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center

<u>The SJSU Writing Center</u> is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers.

Peer Connections

<u>Peer Connections</u> offers free mentoring, tutoring, and supplemental instruction services for students at SJSU. Peer Educators are students just like you; they understand the triumphs and challenges of being a student at San José State University.

- 1. The Peer Connections locations on campus are currently closed due to the pandemic, and we know that it may be challenging for you to get the resources/support that you may need. Therefore, Peer Connections has pushed forward our plans for online/virtual tutoring and mentoring, so you can now meet with your tutor and/or mentor online.
- 2. If you'd like to schedule an appointment to meet with your tutor/mentor online, you can do that from Spartan Connect. Learn more about appointment scheduling options here.
- 3. If you need to contact Peer Connections, please e-mail us at peerconnections@sjsu.edu. We will be checking voicemail, but e-mail is currently the fastest way to reach us. We will be answering e-mails as quickly as possible during business hours (Monday-Friday 9-5pm).

ENGL 22: Fantasy and Science Fiction FALL 2020 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change at instructor's discretion. Schedule adjustments will be announced via email and will be updated on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date W-T	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines		
	W-1	MODULE 0: GETTING STARTED		
1 GETTING STARTED; INTRO TO FANTASY & COURSE THEME	AUG 19-25	WATCH: Getting Started materials. READ: Genre: A Short Introduction (handout; .PDF provided) WATCH: Lecture: Introduction to Fantasy & Science Fiction WATCH: Lecture: Course Theme: British & American Fantasy & Science Fiction DUE: MODULE 0 QUIZ (Aug 26)		
MODULE 1: THE HERO'S JOURNEY				
2 THE HERO'S JOURNEY Part I	AUG 26- SEPT 1	WATCH: Lecture: The Hero's Journey & Tolkien's The Hobbit READ: Novel: Tolkien, J. R. R. <i>The Hobbit</i> . Ch. 1-12 (first half)		
3 THE HERO'S JOURNEY Part II	SEPT 2-8	WATCH: Lecture: Over Hill and Under Hill WATCH: Lecture: Tolkien & the North READ: Novel: Tolkien, J. R. R. <i>The Hobbit</i> . Ch. 13-19 (finish)		
4 THE HERO'S JOURNEY Part III	SEPT 9-15	WATCH: Video: Baum's <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> READ: Novel: Baum, L. Frank. <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> . Ch. 1-24		
5 FINISH MODULE 1	SEPT 16-22	DUE: MODULE 1 QUIZ DUE: SHORT ESSAY: THE HERO'S JOURNEY		
MODULE 2: WIZARD SCHOOLS				
6 WIZARD SCHOOLS Part I	SEPT 23-29	WATCH: Lecture: Le Guin's <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> READ: Novel: Le Guin, Ursula. <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> . Ch 1-5 (first half) BEGIN: TEAM PROJECT		
7 WIZARD SCHOOLS Part II	SEPT 30- OCT 6	READ: Novel: Le Guin, Ursula. A Wizard of Earthsea. Ch 6-10 (finish)		

Week Dat W-	1 / 6/ 6 /			
8 OCT WIZARD 7-13 SCHOOLS Part III	WATCH: Lecture: Rowling & Harry Potter & Wizard Schools READ: Novel: Rowling, J. K. <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> . Ch. 1-8 (first half)			
9 OCT WIZARD 14-2 SCHOOLS Part IV	S ,			
10 OCT FINISH 21-2 MODULE 2				
MODULE 3: NEW FRONTIERS				
11 OCT INTRO TO 28-SF NOT GENRES; GOTHIC & HORROR MARTIAN FRONTIER	WATCH: The Gothic			

Week	Date W-T	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12 SPACE OPERA; ANDROIDS, A.I. &	NOV 4-10	WATCH: Lecture: Space Opera READ: Novella: McCaffrey, Anne. "The Ship Who Sang" pp. 1-25. Please Note: We will only be discussing the novella. You are welcome to read the whole book, but the required reading is pages 1-25; that is, only the shorter work.
CYBER SPACE; MILITARY SF		WATCH: Lecture: Androids, A.I. & Aldiss READ: Short Story: Aldiss, Brian. "Supertoys Last All Summer Long" (.PDF provided)
		WATCH: Lecture: Cyberspace & Cyberpunk READ: Short Story: Gibson, William. "Johnny Mnemonic"
		WATCH: Lecture: Military SF & Cherryh READ: Novella: Cherryh, C. J. "The Scapegoat" (.PDF provided)
13 DIVERSE VOICES &	NOV 11-17	WATCH: Lecture: Diverse Voices WATCH: TED Talk: Adichie "The Danger of the Single Story"
AFRICAN FUTURISM Part I		LISTEN: Short Story: Delany, Samuel R. " <u>Driftglass</u> " (1971) Audio via podcast LeVar Burton Reads: February 5, 2019.
		LISTEN: Short Story: Liu, Ken. "Mono No Aware" (2013) Audio via podcast LeVar Burton Reads: February 12, 2019.
		BEGIN: DIVERSITY PROJECT
14 DIVERSE	NOV 18-24	WATCH: Lecture: Orkorafor & Africanfuturism
VOICES & AFRICAN FUTURISM Part II		READ: Blog post: Orkorafor, Nnedi. What is AfricanFuturism? READ: Novella: Okorafor, Nnedi. Binti
	NOV 25-27	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
15 COMIC SF	NOV 30- DEC 1	WATCH: Lecture: Comic SF READ: Flash Fiction: Bisson, Terry. "Meat" READ: Novel: Adams, Douglas. <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> (begin)
16 FINISH MODULE 3	DEC 2-7	READ: Novel: Adams, Douglas. <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> (finish) DUE: MODULE 3 QUIZ
FINAL EXAM	DEC 9-15	DUE: DIVERSITY PROJECT DUE: FINAL EXAM (Submission Window will be open for 7 days)