Instructor Information

Instructor: Shelly Galliah, MA
Office Location: Walker 332
Telephone: Office - (906) ___
E-mail: sagallia@mtu.edu
Office Hours: MTWR TBA

Course Identification

Course Number: HU3554
Course Name: Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature
Course Location: Walker 127 Fisher
Class Times: MTWR 11:05am - 12:20 pm
Prerequisites: UN1002 OR UN1003

Course Description/Overview

SOME DEFINITIONS:

Speculative fiction, a term first used by Robert A. Heinlein (of Stranger in a Strange Land) in 1947, encompasses various genres that "speculate" about imagined worlds, such as fantasy, science fiction, magic realism, horror fiction, supernatural fiction, and alternate histories. Some names of well-known spec-fic authors, which you may recognize, are Ray Bradbury, ETA Hoffman, Frank Kafka, Stephen King, Piers Anthony, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Fantasy is a fictional genre that incorporates magic and supernatural phenomena, making them central to elements of plot, theme, or setting. Many fantasy works are set in pre-technological worlds where magic, wizards, witches, and imaginary beasts, such as dragons and unicorns, are common. Fantasy has several subgenres, such as sorcerer fantasy, supernatural fantasy, mythic fantasy, but it generally avoids scientific themes and macabre subject matter, which distinguishes it from science fiction and horror. However, some fantasy, like that of Leguin, embeds elements of the other two genres.
Course Website

Sign in to Canvas at http://mtu.instructure.com. Then choose HU3554 from your list of courses. On the course website, you will find copies of assignments, short stories, and relevant handouts. Here, you will also complete the discussion component and submit attachments of your assignments. You can email me here OR at sgallia@mtu.edu.

Required Course Texts


Optional Text (You don’t have to read it, but it is related to the first essay topic.)


Required In-Class Viewing:


Suggested Out of Class Viewing (Options For Online Discussions/Final Exam)


Course Policies

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

• Please attend most or all of the classes, arrive on time, and bring the relevant texts to class. If you must leave early, try to do so as unobtrusively as possible.

• Some texts will be discussed in more detail than other, but you are still responsible for all readings. Assignments, stories, and links are posted, but not notes.

• This course is very compressed and we read almost EVERY day, so to complete all the material and succeed in this course, study the outline and plan ahead. Read deeply and take notes. Read the assignments well before essays are due.

• Please treat your instructor and fellow students with respect and do not engage in discourteous behavior, such as complaining about assignments, chatting about or working on subjects unrelated to class, and texting, which is particularly irksome.

• If you have permission with DS, you may use a computer in class; otherwise, leave it at home. As a person who grew up with the evolution of computers and the internet (yes, I am THAT ancient), I know how distracting technology can be. Also, taking notes by hand actually helps you focus and enhances your learning.

• Take as much care with your email communications as you do with written assignments. Write clearly and proofread and edit your messages. Avoid abbreviations and other texting shortcuts. Never send an email in anger.

A BRIEF NOTE ON ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

• Carefully follow assignment instructions. Submit your essays on time and online as a Word attachments, for late papers are penalized by 10% per calendar day, which includes weekends. If you cannot submit quality work, at least submit something for grading. Remember, it is always better to receive a low grade than NO grade.

• Please submit your own entirely new and original work and understand that plagiarism and cheating have serious academic consequences; the most common penalty for plagiarism is a 0 on the assignment. If, at any time, you have any questions about plagiarism, please do not hesitate to contact me.

• Understand that assignments submitted on time will usually be returned to you within one week.* Late assignments and revisions, however, may not be returned within that period.

• Because the course is so compressed, the last assignment is due right before the final exam. To avoid unnecessary stress and to prepare yourself for this exam, take notes, make connections between the texts, and study as you progress through the course.
LIST OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS CONT’D

BEGINNING WITH SOME SPECULATIVE FICTION STORIES

Tues, May 8: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” (handout); distinguishing science fiction from magic realism PLUS
Harlan Ellison, “Repent, Harlequin,” Said the Ticktockman” (fantasy sci-fi/handout) speculative fiction, dystopic worlds and resistance

Wed, May 9: Finishing Ellison plus Ursula K. LeGuin, “Those Who Walk Away from Omelas” (fantasy/sci-fi handout); speculative fiction and allegory

NOVELLA #1: CLASSIC FANTASY TEXT

Thurs, May 10: Ursula K. LeGuin, A Wizard of Earthsea (Chapters 1-2)

Mon, May 14: Ursula K. LeGuin, A Wizard of Earthsea (rest of text....)

Tues, May 15: Ursula K. LeGuin, A Wizard of Earthsea

Wed, May 16: Ursula K. LeGuin, A Wizard of Earthsea

SCIENCE FICTION THEMES: DYSTOPIAN FUTURE WORLDS

Thurs, May 17: Aldous Huxley, Brave New World.
Read Chapters 1-2 at this link: http://www.huxley.net/bnw/

NOTE: FIRST SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE ONLINE FRIDAY, MAY 18, BY 11:59 PM

NOVELLA #2: CLASSIC DYSTOPIAN SCI-FI TEXT

Mon, May 21: Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451(first section)

Tues, May 22: Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451 (second section) DP

Wed, May 23: Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451(rest of novel)

Thurs, May 24: Finish Fahrenheit 451; Watch Idiocracy OR other film (this class might be longer to compensate for the missed class on May 28)

NOTE: I suggest you start reading Oryx and Crake right after Fahrenheit 451, for it is a longer novel.

Mon, May 28: MEMORIAL DAY – NO CLASS

Tues, May 29: Complete watching Idiocracy PLUS Robert Silverberg, “We Went to See the End of the World”; time travel, sci-fi, and satire DP

HU3554, Summer 2012, Track A, S. Galliah