

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 337
<b>ENGLISH 337: SCIENCE FICTION</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

This course examines how science fiction literature envisions the impact of machine technology on the individual and society. The human/machine interaction will be traced from early myths to contemporary science fiction, including works by Asimov, Clarke, Delaney, Gibson, Lem, Orwell, Vonnegut and Zelazny.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

One anthology of short stories, two films, and one novel

Some recommended readings are the following:

H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*  
Jules Verne, *From the Earth to the Moon*  
Arthur C. Clarke, *2001: A Space Odyssey*  
Ursula K. LeGuin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*  
Samuel R. Delaney, *Dahlgren*  
William Gibson, *Neuromancer*  
Kurt Vonnegut, *Player Piano*  
Stanislaw Lem, *Memoirs of a Space TraveleR*

Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* (i.e., *Blade Runner*)  
Norman Mailer, *Of a Fire on the Moon*

#### E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students will write at least five papers of 500-1000 words, take part actively in class discussions, and complete a final research paper of significant length and quality. Grades will be based on an average of the grades on all assignments, weighted to reward improvement, with an added grade assigned for participation.

#### F. General Education Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

#### **College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

#### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

#### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

#### G. Outline of Topics

- Time Travel
- Alien Invasion/Contact
- Biological/Genetic Manipulation
- Cyberpunk
- Alternative History
- Space Opera/Future War
- Post-Apocalypse
- Utopia/Dystopia

Weeks 1-2: “What if...?” Welcome and Introductions

Weeks 3-4: “To Boldly Go”: Space Exploration and Space Colonies

Weeks 5-6: “The Star Beast”: Animals and Aliens.... What is human?

Weeks 7-8: “I, Robot”: Artificial Intelligence, Artificial Life

Weeks 9-10: “Childhood’s End”: Coming to Faith and Coming of Age

Weeks 11-12: “The Past Through Tomorrow”

Weeks 13-14: “The New Romancers”: The New Wave, Cyberpunk, Gender and Race

Week 15: “Five-Year Mission”: Overview and Envoi