

College of Micronesia-FSM
P. O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Course Outline Cover Page

Literature of Fantasy & Science Fiction
Course Title

EN 214
Department and Number

Course Description:

The course provides an introduction to writings and derived works (graphic novels, film, television, games) in the fantasy and science fiction genres. Course materials consist of diverse readings representing historic and contemporary works. Non-fiction elements such as connection of ideas and theme, logic, extrapolation, scientific or internal consistency, vocabulary, and grammar will be considered. Fiction elements such as characterization, setting, and figurative language will also be considered.

Course Prepared by: Languages & Literature **State:** National Campus

	Hours per Week		No. of Weeks	=	Total Hours	=	Semester Credits
Lecture	3	x	16	=	48/16	=	3
Laboratory		x		=		=	
Workshop		x		=		=	
Total Semester Credits							3

Purpose of Course:

Degree Requirement	_____
Degree Elective	_____ <u>X</u> _____
Certificate	_____
Remedial	_____
Other (workshop)	_____

Prerequisite Course(s): EN 110 Advanced Reading
EN 120a Expository Writing I

_____/_____/2006
 Signature, Chairperson Curriculum Committee Date Approved by Committee

_____/_____/2006
 Signature, President, COM-FSM Date Approved by President

Literature of Fantasy & Science Fiction (3 Credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course provides an introduction to writings and derived works (graphic novels, film, television, games) in the fantasy and science fiction genres. Course materials consist of diverse readings representing historic and contemporary works. Non-fiction elements such as connection of ideas and theme, logic, extrapolation, scientific or internal consistency, vocabulary, and grammar will be considered. Fiction elements such as characterization, setting, and figurative language will also be considered.

I. COURSE OUTCOMES

Program Learning Outcomes, Humanities: Students will be able to demonstrate an ability for independent thought and expression in at least one of the following areas: the arts, ethical thought and moral values, historical analysis, language, or literature.

General Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate awareness of historic and contemporary works of the fantasy and science fiction genres in a variety of forms.
2. Students will demonstrate comprehension of the work of prominent authors in the fantasy and science fiction genres.
3. Students will demonstrate acquisition of genre-specific vocabulary.
4. Students will demonstrate increased use of imagination and critical thinking skills.
5. Students will produce written compositions on specific topics and issues.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- 1.1 Students will identify and analyze styles and basic elements of English works of the fantasy and science fiction genres.
- 1.2 Students will analyze and discuss the cultural context of fantasy and science fiction as illustrated in assigned reading passages.
- 1.3 Students will differentiate between the genres of fantasy and science fiction and among the major subgenres of each.
- 1.4 Students will identify and discuss the major trends in fantasy and science fiction literature as illustrated by the works of prominent authors.
- 2.1 Students will identify and analyze selections by noted authors of fantasy and science fiction.
- 3.1 Students will communicate personal opinions and preferences in fantasy and science fiction literature using appropriate vocabulary.
- 4.1 Students will discuss the relevant historic, biographical and scientific data about events, authors, characters, and technologies depicted in the writing.

- 4.2 Students will creatively extrapolate new consequences of fantastic or science fiction postulates.
- 4.3 Students will evaluate the plausibility or internal consistency of works of fantasy and science fiction.
- 5.1 Students will write one major research paper on an assigned topic, using appropriate vocabulary and citation format.
- 5.2 Students will write a short response paper each week.
- 5.3 Students will write short essay answers on tests.
- 5.4 Students will conduct library and online research to support written assignments.

II. COURSE CONTENTS

This course covers two major genres of literature, *fantasy* and *science fiction*. Each of these genres can be subdivided into a number of subgenres. At the instructor's discretion, these subgenres can be taught as separate units, or covered together. However the course is structured, it should deal with the following genres and subgenres at a minimum. Additional material should be included at the instructor's discretion.

1. Fantasy: The course will begin with the genre's origins in folklore and continue through contemporary works, including works from identifiable subgenres such as high fantasy, fairy tale, sword & sorcery, epic quest, feminist reinterpretation, and parody. Concepts discussed will include anachronism, magic, mythological beings, psychological archetypes, gender roles, and internal consistency.
2. Science Fiction: The course will begin with the genre's origins in technology as represented in folklore, and continue through contemporary works. Subgenres and concepts will include space opera, cyberpunk, first contact, utopia, post-apocalypse, future history, alternate history, psi, time travel, and science as monster.

It is recommended that one shorter work (short story, poem, etc.) be assigned for class reading and discussion each week throughout the semester, and that students select one longer work (novel, novella) for individual reading and presentation to the class later in the semester.

III. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook: Short stories and excerpts selected by instructor and available for purchase through the COM-FSM bookstore. See Appendix: Suggested Readings.

Supplemental Materials:

Selected short stories and excerpts published in *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, ISSN 0024-984X. See Appendix: Suggested Readings. (Note: *Fantasy & Science Fiction* is available through EBSCO MasterFILE Premiere. A link to EBSCO is available on the COM-FSM National Campus LRC webpage under "Research Tools").

Handouts provided by the instructor. See Appendix: Suggested Readings.

IV. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

NONE

V. REFERENCE MATERIALS

LRC Reference Sources:

Prentice Hall Anthology of Fantasy and Science Fiction

The Norton Book of Science Fiction

Tales before Tolkien : The Roots of Modern Fantasy. New York : Del Rey/Ballantine Books, 2003. LRC: PR1309.F3T34 2003

Burgess, Michael, 1948- *Reference Guide to Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror.* Westport Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2002. LRC: Ref.Z5917.S36B87 2002

VII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Lecture, video/audio recordings, discussion, in-class activities, assignments, quizzes, and projects.

VIII. EVALUATION

Students will be graded A,B,C,D or F based on homework, essays, major research writing project, in-class participation and other projects. Credit by examination- none.

IX. ATTENDANCE

The COM-FSM attendance policy applies to this course.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

The COM-FSM Academic Honesty Policy applies to this course.

APPENDIX: SUGGESTED READINGS

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley "Frankenstein" 1818
Hans Christian Andersen "In A Thousand Years" 1853
Jules Verne "An Express of the Future" "In the Year 2889" 1885
H. G. Wells "The Time Machine" 1895 "The Star" 1899
Hugo Gernsback "Ralph 124C 41+" 1911
Edgar Rice Burroughs "A Princess of Mars" 1912
Murray Leinster "The Mad Planet" 1920
Karel Capek "R.U.R." 1921
C. L. Moore "Shambleau" 1933
E. E. "Doc" Smith "Robot Nemesis" 1934
Isaac Asimov "Robbie" 1940
J. R. R. Tolkien "Farmer Giles of Ham" 1949 "Smith of Wootton Major" 1967
C. S. Lewis "The Chronicles of Narnia" 1950
Ray Bradbury "There Will Come Soft Rains" 1950
Arthur C. Clarke "The Deep Range" 1950
T. H. White "The Once and Future King" 1958
Fredric Brown "Answer" 1954
Poul Anderson "Snowball" 1955
Robert A. Heinlein "The Menace From Earth" 1957
H. Beam Piper "Naudsonce" 1962
Fred Saberhagen "Without A Thought" 1963
Frederick Pohl "The Fiend" 1964
James K. Schmitz "Goblin Night" 1965
Philip K. Dick "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" 1966
Samuel Delany "Driftglass" 1967
Larry Niven "The Jigsaw Man" 1967
James K. Tiptree, Jr. "The Last Flight of Dr. Ain" 1969
Kurt Vonnegut "Unready to Wear" 1953
Stanislaw Lem "The Cyberiad" 1967
Anne McCaffrey "Dragonriders of Pern" 1988
William F. Gibson "Johnny Mnemonic" 1981
Joe Haldeman "Saul's Death" 1982
Greg Bear "Blood Music" 1983
Spider Robinson "Callahan's Crosstime Saloon" 1977
Bruce Sterling "Our Neural Chernobyl" 1988
Elizabeth Moon "Those Who Walk in Darkness" 1990
Mercedes Lackey "Stolen Silver" 1991
Terri Windling "White as Snow: Fairy Tales and Fantasy" 1993
Susan Wade "Like a Red, Red Rose" 1993
J. K. Rowling "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" 1997
Julia West "Sea of Chaos" 1994
Deborah Wheeler "Javier, dying in the land of flowers" 1996
Linda Nagata "Hooks, Nets, and Time." 1997
Jan Lars Jensen "The Pacific Front" 1998
Robert Onopa "Republic" 2006