

KU2MDCFNG103: SCIENCE FICTION

Semester	Course Type	Course Level	Course Code	Credits	Total Hours
2	MDC	100 -199	KU2MDCFNG103	3	3

Learning Approach (Hours/ Week)			Marks Distribution			Duration of ESE (Hours)
Lecture	Practical/ Internship	Tutorial	CE	ESE	Total	
3	0	0	25	50	75	1.5

Course Description: This course explores the genre of science fiction, examining its depiction of futuristic technologies, societies, and imagined encounters with extraterrestrial intelligence. Scientific advancements and philosophical inquiries are analysed within the context of fictional narratives, encouraging critical thinking about the potential impact of science and technology on humanity's future. Emphasis is placed on identifying recurring themes, literary devices, and the evolving nature of science fiction as a genre

Course Prerequisite: NIL

Course Outcomes:

CO No.	Expected Outcome	Learning Domains
1	Understand the literary techniques used in science fiction writing	U
2	Identify the author's purpose and potential social commentary within a science fiction work.	U
3	Compare and contrast different science fiction works across genres and eras	A
4	Identify and analyse the major themes and tropes explored in science fiction	An
5	Engage in critical discussions and debates about the role of science fiction in society	An

*Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)

Mapping of Course Outcomes to PSOs

	PSO 1	PSO 2	PSO 3	PSO 4	PSO 5	PSO 6	PSO 7
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CO 1		✓			✓		
CO 2				✓			
CO 3			✓		✓		
CO 4	✓					✓	
CO 5						✓	✓

COURSE CONTENTS

Contents for Classroom Transaction:

MODULE	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	HOURS
MODULE I	Unit 1 - Introduction to Science Fiction		
	a)	Definition and characteristics of science fiction	7
	b)	Historical overview of the genre	
	c)	Key authors: Mary Shelley, Margaret Cavendish, Jules Verne H.G. Wells, Isaac Asimov, Ursula K. Le Guin, Philip K. Dick	
Unit 2 - Utopias and Dystopias			
	a)	The Ideal Society vs. The Nightmare Future	3
	b)	Characteristics of utopian/dystopian societies	
MODULE II	Unit 1 - Science Fiction and Aliens		
	a)	Depictions of extraterrestrial life - Fear of the unknown vs. potential for cooperation	6
	b)	<i>Arrival</i> : Dir. Denis Villeneuve (2016, Film)	
	Unit 2 - Science Fiction and Superheroes		
	a)	Superhero tropes in Sci-Fi	6
	b)	“It’s a Brave New World” - <i>X-Men</i> Vol. 1: Jonathan Hickman (Graphic novel)	
MODULE III	Unit 1 - Science Fiction and the Environment		
	a)	Environmental concerns and the future of the earth - Sustainability and the impact on humanity	6

	b)	WALL - E : Dir. Andrew Stanton (Film, 2008)		
MODULE IV	Unit 1 - Time Travel			
	a)	Mechanics of Time Travel: (Wormholes, time machines, etc.)	6	
	b)	"A Sound of Thunder" : Ray Bradbury		
	Unit 2 - Interplanetary Travel			
	a)	The challenges of space travel	6	
	b)	Star Trek : Dir. J.J. Abrams (2009, Film)		
MODULE V	Teacher Specific Module			
	Directions:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the potential of technology, environmental concerns, social and political critiques, and humanity's place in the universe. Supplement text-based learning with movies, TV shows, graphic novels, and even video games to cater to different learning styles. Encourage students to write critical essays, short stories in a specific subgenre, or character analyses. Conduct in-depth film analysis exercises focusing on visual storytelling techniques, special effects, and how film adapts science fiction narratives. 			

Essential Readings:

1. Bould, Mark and Sherryl Vint. *The Routledge Concise History of Science Fiction*. Routledge, 2011.
2. Bradbury, Ray. "A Sound of Thunder". *A Sound of Thunder and Other Stories*. Harper Collins, 2013.
3. James, Edward and Farah Mendlesohn (Editor). *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*. CUP, 2003.
4. Jones, Matthew and Joan Ormrod (Editor). *Time Travel in Popular Media: Essays on Film, Television, Literature and Video Games*. McFarland & Co Inc, 2015.
5. Rennison, Nick. *100 Must-read Science Fiction Novels*. A & C Black Publishers Ltd, 2006.
6. Roberts, Adam. *The History of Science Fiction*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

7. Stableford, Brian M. *The A to Z of Science Fiction Literature*. Scarecrow Press, 2005.
8. *WALL-E*. Directed by Andrew Stanton, performances by Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight, Fred Willard, Walt Disney Pictures, 2008.
9. Wells, H G. *The Classic Science Fiction Collection*. Arcturus Publishing Ltd, 2018.
10. Wolfe, Gary K. *Critical Terms for Science Fiction and Fantasy: A Glossary and Guide to Scholarship*. Greenwood Press, 1986.

Suggested Readings:

1. Butler, Octavia. *Parable of the Sower*. Hachette UK, 2014.
2. Liu, Cixin. *The Wandering Earth*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016.
3. Wells, Martha. *All Systems Red*. Tordotcom, 2017.

Assessment Rubrics:

Evaluation Type		Marks
End Semester Evaluation (ESE)		50
Continuous Evaluation (CE)		25
a)	Test Paper - 1	5
b)	Test Paper - 2	5
c)	Book/ Article/Film Review	10
d)	Seminar/Presentation	5
Total (ESE + CE)		75