

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and the Western Tradition:

Spring 2011
MWF 11:15am-12:05pm
Ballantine Hall 140

The Cold War Context

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Office Hours: TR 11:00am-12:30pm

CMLT C216-15726

Welcome to CMLT C216: Science Fiction, Fantasy, and the Western Tradition! This course will explore the genre of science fiction from a comparative perspective. In order to do this, we will focus on the tensions generated during the Cold War. Indeed, it's no surprise that the flowering of science fiction in the second half of the twentieth century coincided with the Cold War. Space exploration, nuclear arms buildup, and ideological warfare all contributed to unprecedented fears and possibilities that were often best expressed through the genres of sci-fi and fantasy. This course will examine these issues in both the U.S. and Soviet contexts through fiction and film.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Jack Finney. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Scribner.
2. Richard Matheson. *I Am Legend*. Tor Books.
3. Kurt Vonnegut. *Cat's Cradle*. Dial Press Trade.
4. Arkady and Boris Strugatsky. *Roadside Picnic*. Gollancz, UK import. (This text is difficult to acquire online; I recommend that you get a copy from TIS or the IU Bookstore at the beginning of the term.)
5. Viktor Pelevin. *Omon Ra*. New Directions.
6. All other texts are available on Oncourse under the "Resources" tab.

REQUIRED FILMS:

1. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (dir. Siegal, 1956).
2. *2001: A Space Odyssey* (dir. Kubrick, 1968)
3. *Stalker* (dir. Tarkovsky, 1979)
4. *The Omega Man* (dir. Sagal, 1971)
5. *Blade Runner* (dir. Scott, 1982)
6. *Total Recall* (dir. Verhoeven, 1990)

As a courtesy, I will schedule a group screening for all films the evening before class discussion. If you are unable to attend the screening, it is your responsibility to watch the film on your own.

「 COURSE POLICIES 」

PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION:

You are expected to seriously prepare for and participate in class discussions. Your participation grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your comments in class. In addition, you will be expected to prepare a short, paragraph-length response for each class period. Each day, I will randomly choose several students to read their response to the class in order to begin our class discussion. Not being prepared to do so will negatively affect your participation grade for the course.

CLASS CONDUCT:

While you are in class I hold you to professional forms of conduct. Text messaging, falling asleep, doing homework for another class, reading the newspaper, or being otherwise disengaged or disruptive is unprofessional and will lower your participation grade.

ATTENDANCE:

You may have 3 unexcused absences without penalty. After that, 3% will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences can be excused in the case of:

- **Illness**, provided I am notified within 24 hours of the class missed. For more than 2 consecutive days of absence I require a note from the IU Health Center or other healthcare provider.
- **Major family matters** (such as weddings or funerals). For weddings I require at least 2 weeks notice in advance.
- **Religious observances**, provided I am notified at least 2 weeks in advance.

LATE WORK:

Even if you cannot make it to class, make every effort to get your work in on time. You or someone you trust can drop off hard copies of your assignments in my mailbox (in Ballantine 901, open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

If you are unable to complete your work on time due to illness or other circumstances, you must contact me in a timely manner if you wish to arrange make-up work or an extension. I reserve the right to refuse late work or an extension if I determine that your reason for missing the deadline is not adequate.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

At IUB, plagiarism is considered a violation of academic integrity and can result in automatic failure of the course (see the Code of Student Conduct for more information:

<http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/index.shtml>.) Plagiarism occurs when you represent someone else's work as your own work in the following ways:

- having someone write your paper for you or turning in someone else's work
- purchasing someone else's work and using it as your own
- simply copying and pasting published information into your paper
- deliberately using sources without attributing them.

Our course will teach you ways of integrating the ideas of other writers and documenting the source of those ideas, but please ask if you ever have any questions about plagiarism.

「 ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION 」

ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance and Participation	200 points
Response Papers (4 x 100 points)	400 points
Midterm Exam	200 points
Final Exam	200 points

Total	1000 points
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GRADING:

The final grade distribution is as follows:

1000-930 points (A)	899-870 points (B+)	799-770 points (C+)	699-600 (D)
929-900 points (A-)	869-830 points (B)	769-730 points (C)	599 and below (F)
	829-800 points (B-)	729-700 points (C-)	

Please keep in the mind that at Indiana University, an “A” indicates exemplary work and means you have mastered the concepts of the assignment. A “B” indicates very good work in which you have not only met all of the assignment requirements, but you have also met them at a level above expectations. A “C” indicates that you have sufficiently completed the assignment. A “D” indicates that you have failed to execute some portion of the assignment properly and need help with the assignment. And an “F” indicates that you either did not understand or did not follow through with the assignment.

「 RESOURCES 」

OFFICE HOURS:

My office hours are scheduled specifically for you, and I encourage you to stop by with any questions or concerns. No appointment is necessary. If you cannot make it to office hours, email is the best method to get in touch with me with a simple question or to set up another meeting time. I will do my best to get back to you within 48 hours, but please do not wait until the last minute to contact me. If I have not responded to an email about an assignment by the time that the assignment is due, it is by no means an excuse for turning the assignment in late.

WRITING TUTORIAL SERVICES:

I highly encourage you to seek out additional readers for your writing at Writing Tutorial Services (WTS) in Ballantine 206. The tutors there can provide you with valuable feedback at any stage of your writing process.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Disability Services and The Adaptive Technologies divisions of the Office of Student Affairs can arrange for assistance, auxiliary aids, or related services if you think a temporary or permanent disability will prevent you from being a full participant in the class. Contact them at <http://www.dsa.indiana.edu> or 855-7578 with any individual concerns. Students with special needs must be registered with Disability Services before classroom accommodations can be provided.

「 COURSE SCHEDULE 」

You will be expected to complete all readings or film viewings prior the class in which they are discussed. Please bring a copy of your text for each day (whether in print or on a laptop). I reserve the right to make changes to assignments and due dates. I will announce any changes in class and on Oncourse.

Mon., Jan. 10	Introduction to the semester
Wed., Jan. 12	Robert A. Heinlein, "The Roads Must Roll" (1940)
Fri., Jan. 14	Jack Finney, <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (1955), Ch. 1-5
Mon., Jan. 17	<i>MLK (class does not meet)</i>
Wed., Jan. 19	Jack Finney, <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> , Ch. 6-10
Fri., Jan. 21	Jack Finney, <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> , Ch. 11-15
Mon., Jan. 24	Jack Finney, <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> , Ch. 16-21
Wed., Jan. 26	Film: <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (1956)
Fri., Jan. 28	Dmitri Bilenkin, "The Snows of Olympus" (1976), "On a Dusty Path" (1967)
Mon., Jan. 31	Stanisław Lem, <i>Solaris</i> (1961) (Oncourse), pp. 3-34
Wed., Feb. 2	Stanisław Lem, <i>Solaris</i> , pp. 35-69
Fri., Feb. 4	Stanisław Lem, <i>Solaris</i> , pp. 70-105, Response Paper #1 due
Mon., Feb. 7	Stanisław Lem, <i>Solaris</i> , pp. 106-137
Wed., Feb. 9	Film: <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968)
Fri., Feb. 11	Film: <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> , Arthur C. Clarke, "The Sentinel" (1954)
Mon., Feb. 14	Boris and Arkady Strugatsky, <i>Roadside Picnic</i> (1972), Intro-Ch. 1
Wed., Feb. 16	Boris and Arkady Strugatsky, <i>Roadside Picnic</i> , Ch. 2
Fri., Feb. 18	Boris and Arkady Strugatsky, <i>Roadside Picnic</i> , Ch. 3-4
Mon., Feb. 21	Film: <i>Stalker</i> (1979)
Wed., Feb. 23	Film: <i>Stalker</i>
Fri., Feb. 25	Midterm Review, Response Paper #2 due
Mon., Feb. 28	Midterm
Wed., Mar. 2	Theodore Sturgeon, "Microcosmic God" (1941)
Fri., Mar. 4	Arthur C. Clarke, "The Nine Billion Names of God" (1953), and Dmitri Bilenkin, "The Painter" (1967)

Mon., Mar. 7	Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Cat's Cradle</i> (1963), Ch. 1-33
Wed., Mar. 9	Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Cat's Cradle</i> , Ch. 34-56
Fri., Mar. 11	Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Cat's Cradle</i> , Ch. 57-86
Mon., Mar. 14	<i>Spring Break (class does not meet)</i>
Wed., Mar. 16	<i>Spring Break (class does not meet)</i>
Fri., Mar. 18	<i>Spring Break (class does not meet)</i>
Mon., Mar. 21	Kurt Vonnegut, <i>Cat's Cradle</i> , Ch. 87-127
Wed., Mar. 23	Film: <i>The Omega Man</i> (1971)
Fri., Mar. 25	Film: <i>The Omega Man</i> , Richard Matheson, <i>I Am Legend</i> (1954), Part 1
Mon., Mar. 28	Richard Matheson, <i>I Am Legend</i> , Part 2
Wed., Mar. 30	Richard Matheson, <i>I Am Legend</i> , Part 3-4
Fri., April 1	<i>Class Cancelled</i>
Mon., April 4	<i>Class Cancelled</i> , Response Paper #3 due (in my mailbox by 4:30pm)
Wed., April 6	Film: <i>Blade Runner</i> (1982)
Fri., April 8	Film: <i>Blade Runner</i>
Mon., April 11	Sever Gansovsky, "A Day of Wrath" (1964)
Wed., April 13	Gleb Anfilov, "Erem" (1963), Philip K. Dick, "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (1966)
Fri., April 15	Film: <i>Total Recall</i> (1990)
Mon., April 18	Film: <i>Total Recall</i>
Wed., April 20	Viktor Pelevin, <i>Omon Ra</i> (1992), pp. 1-38
Fri., April 22	Viktor Pelevin, <i>Omon Ra</i> , pp. 39-70
Mon., April 25	Viktor Pelevin, <i>Omon Ra</i> , pp. 71-112
Wed., April 27	Viktor Pelevin, <i>Omon Ra</i> , pp. 113-154
Fri., April 29	Final Exam review, Semester evaluations, Response Paper #4 due
Mon., May 2	Final Exam (2:45pm)