



English 2071G (570)  
Winter 2026  
Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction

**Course Information:**

**Calendar Description:** From Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, a consideration of the history and development of science fiction. Will include science fiction themes such as the Other, new technologies, chaos theory, cybernetics, paradoxes of space/time travel, first contact, and alien worlds.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Anti-requisite(s):**

**Extra Information:** 3 hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50      **Breadth:** Category B

**Subject Code:** English

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary pre-requisites.

**ENGLISH 2071G (570)**  
**Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction**  
**Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026**

**Course Information**

**Calendar Description:** From Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, a consideration of the history and development of science fiction. Will include science fiction themes such as the Other, new technologies, chaos theory, cybernetics, paradoxes of space/time travel, first contact, and alien worlds.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Antirequisite(s):** Please note that English 134E AND 171F/G are antirequisites to this course; hence, if you have taken English 134E or 171F/G, you cannot receive credit for English 2071F/G.

**Extra Information:** 3 hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50 **Breadth:** Category B

**Subject Code:** ENGLISH

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course fulfilment of pre-requisites, no antirequisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**King's University College**  
**English 2071F -- Science Fiction Literature**  
**English 2071G (570)**  
**Winter 2026**

**Instructor:** Dr. Dominick Grace

**Office Hours:** MW 5:30-6:30 or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The science fiction course explores a selection of science fiction short stories and novels by focusing on the author's imaginative recreation of the human world. The course focuses upon critical science fiction themes such as the creation of artificial intelligence, the reconstruction of a conventional social and political order, the breakdown of traditional gender definitions, alien encounters, and explorations of otherness.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Think critically about science fiction literature and culture, and understand the historical and literary contexts of works.
- Be able to distinguish between periods, movements, and styles of science fiction literature. -- Write an essay about a work of literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text and documented following the Modern Language Association method.
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic. \$19.99  
William Gibson, *Neuromancer*. \$21.45  
Ursula Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*. \$14.99  
Walter M. Miller, Jr. *A Canticle for Leibowitz*. \$13.50  
Nnedi Okorafor. *Lagoon*. \$21.50  
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*. \$8.95  
H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine and War of the Worlds*. \$11.99

Short stories on Brightspace or online:

Lester del Rey, "Helen O'Loy": first item at del-rey-helen-oloy.pdf

Tom Godwin, "The Cold Equations": <https://www.lightspeedmagazine.com/fiction/the-cold-equations/>

Phyllis Gotlieb, "Tauf Aleph": <https://archive.org/details/blueapes0000gotl/page/16/mode/2up>  
(requires free subscription to access)

NOTE: While I recommend that you use the assigned editions of these books, many are available in other editions, and if you wish to use a different one, you may do so. However, make sure that, if you decide to do so, you select an edition that has not been abridged or modified.

You will need a reliable internet connection to access the course page and use its resources.

### **METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Quizzes (approx. 7; best 5 will count)	10%
Participation (including Forum discussion on the course site)	10%
Short Story essay (approx. 2 pages, 500 words)	5%
Midterm Essay (approx. 4 pages ,1000 words)	15%
Major Essay (approx. 6 pages, 1500 words)	25%
Final Exam	35%

### **MODE OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture  
Class Discussion  
Online discussion forums

**Attendance** is not only expected but required. Note that the policy on attendance reads, “Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.”

### **Academic Considerations:**

Absent academic accommodation, essays submitted late will be penalized at the rate of 2 points per day (essays will be marked out of 100 points). Where accommodation is granted, it will typically consist of an extension, or of a make-up test. There is NO accommodation or make-up for missed quizzes, as you can miss two with no effect on your grade. Accommodation for essay 4 and the final exam requires submission of formal supporting documentation via your academic advisor.

### **Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:**

Here is a link to the scholastic discipline policy. Review it carefully.

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Be aware that ALL work you submit for this course must be your work, and yours alone. If you have used sources (as you will be expected to do for the final essay and may choose to use for

other assignments), you are **REQUIRED** to cite them correctly and document their use according to MLA criteria.

**The use of ANY AI assistance in the completion of work is strictly prohibited and will result in academic sanction.**

### **Statement about Literary Studies**

Literature is by its nature exploratory. It pushes against conventions, assumptions, limits, and even good taste. Literary texts may be culturally, morally, politically, racially, socially, religiously, ideologically, and/or linguistically or otherwise offensive to some. In taking this course, you agree to expose yourself to material that you may find offensive and agree to read all required work and do all required assignments, even if the materials involved are offensive to you. It is understood that literary analysis and evaluation can include consideration of what is offensive and why, within the context of reasoned discussion and civil debate.

### **Online behaviour and intellectual property statement:**

- All students are expected to engage online in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TAs or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline and/or discipline under the Student Code of Conduct.
- Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is grounds for academic discipline.
- Course content created by a faculty member is the faculty member's intellectual property; it cannot be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.
- Other materials available online via the course page may be the intellectual property of third parties. These are provided for use in this class only. Any sharing of them is strictly prohibited and may be punishable by law.

### **Grading Criteria**

As a university student, you are expected to meet certain requirements in your work. First, you are expected to use the English language clearly and correctly (see the calendar for University policies on English language proficiency). Grammatical errors or infelicities in your writing will have a significant impact on your grade. You are expected to use formal language, not colloquial language. Second, as an English student you are expected to follow MLA guidelines for essay writing; matters of format will be referred to as the "mechanics" of writing in class and in comments on essays. Third, you are expected to have a thesis and to build an argument that will provide reasonable evidence and analysis sufficient to convince the sceptical reader of the validity of your position. You are not expected to summarize the plot of the work you are discussing, to repeat what we have done in class, or to toe a particular line. Overall, there are three broad areas in which you must show competence: grammar, mechanics, and analysis. A guide to how work is evaluated follows.

- A: To earn an "A" you must handle the mechanics of essay writing extremely well; work must conform to MLA requirements and must be grammatically correct (or nearly so), clear, formal, and elegant. Compositional errors will be few and minor. "A" work has a well-defined thesis, is carefully and clearly structured, makes excellent use of evidence from primary and secondary sources (when such are required), and provides an argument that goes significantly beyond the information provided in class: you cannot earn an "A" by telling me what I have told you.
- B: To earn a "B" you must write well, making few grammatical errors; you may slip occasionally, but infrequently. Major errors, such as sentence fragments, dangling participles, misplaced modifiers, etc., are not acceptable and will pull your grade down to, at best, low "B" range. MLA criteria will be followed, with perhaps some minor errors. "B" work will be fairly well-organized and argued but will probably miss some important aspect(s) of its case. Overall, it will make good use of evidence from the primary text, and perhaps from secondary materials, but will not fully capitalize on the best material available to prove its case. It will be less adventurous than "A" work, closer in theme and content to "safe" material (e.g. perspectives explored in class or readily available in the bulk of the critical material).
- C: "C" work will probably suffer from numerous writing problems, both grammatical and mechanical, which will probably affect clarity. The structure of the argument will probably be unclear, due to an insufficient introduction, an illogical linking of arguments, or a loose linking of points. When your argument consists of a sequence of points treated more as a list than as a coherent structure, you are likely working in the "C" range. "C" work tends not to use evidence well, either because it integrates evidence poorly into the essay, because it misinterprets the evidence in some way, or because it does not use any direct evidence at all. The thesis in "C" work will probably be overly general, vague, or simplistic; the argument will be similar.
- D: "D" work will be weak grammatically and mechanically. Numerous major and minor grammatical errors will occur. Clarity will be a problem in the essay. Evidence, if used at all, will be poorly integrated and poorly evaluated, though it may be of some relevance to the topic. The argument will be poorly structured and/or unclear; links between ideas will not be evident, and the ideas themselves may not seem related to the central topic. Important arguments will be missed, as will important evidence; some evidence may not be interpreted well, and the interpretation may be based in a misreading of the text under discussion.
- F: "F" work will suffer from severe writing limitations. What is meant will often be difficult or impossible to determine. The mechanics will be nonexistent, or so poorly handled as to be incoherent. The thesis will be vague, non-existent, or simply wrong. Evidence will not appear or will be misused significantly; "F" work will show a fundamental lack of understanding of the topic and/or work under discussion. The argument will probably be poorly structured; elements of it will seem to be irrelevant to the topic. Significant evidence will be missed, or misused if it appears. Significant errors will probably occur with evidence use,

including the misquotation or even misrepresentation of your text. Clear conclusions will be lacking, or will be so self-evident as to be meaningless (e.g. "Therefore, if Macbeth hadn't killed Duncan, he would have lived"). **Note: plagiarism will automatically place work in the F range, regardless of any other qualities.**

### **Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:**

January 7: Introduction; "The Cold Equations"

January 14: "Helen O'Loy"; *Frankenstein*

January 21: *Frankenstein*

January 28: Wells **ESSAY 1 DUE**

February 4: Wells; *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

February 11: *A Canticle for Leibowitz*; "Tauf Aleph"

February 25: *Left Hand of Darkness* **ESSAY 2 DUE**

March 4: *Left Hand*; *Neuromancer*

March 11: *Neuromancer*

March 18: *Hunger Games*

March 25: *Hunger Games*; *Lagoon* **ESSAY 3 DUE**

April 1: *Lagoon*

April 8: Conclusion

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### 1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/S\\_MC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/S_MC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### **GBSV Support:**

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### 3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### 4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see

<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

### **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

### **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.