# RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

#### **ENGLISH 227 SCIENCE FICTION**

#### I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 227 Science Fiction

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2020

D. Effective Term: Fall 2020

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3

Laboratory: None

Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay <a href="mailto:susan.arvay@raritanval.edu">susan.arvay@raritanval.edu</a>; Patrice Marks <a href="mailto:patrice.marks@raritanval.edu">patrice.marks@raritanval.edu</a>

## **II. Catalog Description**

**Prerequisite** (s): **ENGL 111 English Composition I** This course is a survey of the science fiction genre from literary and theoretical points of views. The course will draw upon stories, novels, films, and / or graphic novels that call attention to the genre's focus on examining the cultural impact of scientific and technological progress and on examining how science fictional settings provide new ways to interrogate existing social attitudes and structures.

#### III. Statement of Course Need

**A.** Science Fiction provides students with the opportunity to study a specific literary genre. It is a course typically featured in college English departments and meets an elective requirement of the English Department's Associate of Arts degree in English.

- **B.** This course does not have a Lab component.
- **C.** The course generally transfers as an English elective, a general education elective, or a free elective.

## IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities/English Literature.
- C. This course meets a genre-based Category B elective requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

## **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Introduction to the genre: Science Fiction as Speculative Fiction.
- B. Historical Overview of major movements in Science Fiction (19<sup>th</sup> century origins, the Golden Age of Sci-Fi Pulps and Magazines, the New Wave, Cyber-Punk, Steampunk, etc.).
- C. Science fiction as social commentary
- D. Philosophical and / or theoretical approaches to science fiction.

## **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

## A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

## At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Analyze science fiction texts in their literary, historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, \*)
- 2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing using appropriate literary terminology (GE-NJ 1, 6, \*)
- 3. Distinguish among and assess commonly accepted approaches and criteria for analyzing science fiction works (GE-NJ 6, \*)

(\*Embedded critical thinking)

### **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

### At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Describe key elements of the science fiction genre
- 2. Appraise cultural values reflected in science fiction

### C. Assessment Instruments:

- 1. exams
- 2. in-class formal and informal writing
- 3. demonstrations or presentations
- 4. essays
- 5. journals
- 6. research papers
- 7. group projects
- 8. class participation

#### VII. Grade Determinants

- A. exams
- B. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar, mechanics and the finer points of style
- C. demonstrations or presentations
- D. projects
- E. class participation

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. simulation/role playing
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study
- G. examination of films

#### **VIII. Texts and Materials**

- A. textbooks
- B. primary sources
- C. student writing
- D. film and video
- E. audio sources
- F. web sources

Sample anthologies that may be used:

- A. Science Fiction: Stories and Contexts. Ed. Heather Masri
- B. Visions of Tomorrow. Eds. Thomas A. Easton and Judith K. Dial
- C. The Norton Book of Science Fiction: North American Science Fiction, 1960-1990. Ed. Ursula K. Le Guin. R.S. Means Co. Current Edition.
- D. *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Ed. Garyn G. Roberts. Prentice Hall Current Edition.

## E. The Science Fiction Century. Ed. David G. Hartwell

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

## **IX Resources**

No specific or unusual resources required for this course.

# X. Honors Option

There is no Honors Option for this course.