



COURSE OUTLINE

Camosun College Course Outline

English 163: From Epic and Romance to Science Fiction and Fantasy

Instructor: Nigel Brooks

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Office Hours:

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Texts: The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Smoke and Mirrors by Neil Gaiman

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to explore the evolution of fantasy fiction and science fiction—broadly termed speculative fiction—from the earliest epic and romantic works beginning with Gilgamesh and the works of Homer through to the different versions of the Arthurian story. We will see how elements of these works have contributed to a large body of literature ranging from Shakespeare to Frankenstein and to Brave New World and have gone on to influence many other works of popular culture which we will also briefly look at.

Assignments and Weighting:

750–1000 word essay: 20%

1500 word essay: 25%

In-class reports: 15%

In-class tests: 15%

Final exam: 25%

Class Schedule:

Week One: Introduction to epic, romance, science fiction and fantasy

Week Two: First three Chapters of Genesis; extract from Paradise Lost by John Milton; “Ulysses” and “Morte D’ Arthur” by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Week Three: The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Week Four: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Week Five: Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Week Six: Selected short stories from Smoke and Mirrors by Neil Gaiman: “Chivalry”, “Troll Bridge”, “The Goldfish Pool and Other Stories”, “Changes”, “Shoggoth’s Old Peculiar”, Bay Wolf”, “Vampire Sestina”.

Week Seven: Course wrap-up

Grading System:

90– 100% = A+

85–89% = A

80–84% = A–

77–79% = B+

73–76% = B

70–72% = B–

65–69% = C+

60–64% = C

50–59% = D

0–49% = F