**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**
*School of Arts & Science*
*Department of English*

*ENGL-163-D02*
*Intro to Literary Traditions – Science Fiction: The Past and Present of the Future*
*Winter 2021*

## COURSE OUTLINE

**The course description is online @**
**http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html**

 *Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.*

### 1. Instructor Information

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|---|---|---|
| **(a) Instructor** | Max Olesen | |
| **(b) Office hours** | Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m., online through Blackboard Collaborate or phone by appointment | |
| **(c) Location** | D2L Course Website | |
| **(d) Phone** | 250-370-3349 (Office Closed) | |
| **(e) E-mail** | olesenm@camosun.bc.ca (This is best way to contact me) | |
| **(f) Website** | See D2L Course Website | |

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes
**Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:**

1. Reading and Writing:
   - Explain how literary traditions change with time and affect creation of new literary texts;
   - Identify different literary forms, genres, and historical periods;
   - Describe the complex variety of literary study and literature's relationship to formal, cultural, social, political and historical contexts;
   - Identify various approaches to literary texts and draw connections between different texts;
   - Debate canon formation and challenges to the canon;
   - Use critical, literary terminology;
   - Use a critical approach with appropriate language and terminology;
   - Argue for various interpretations;
   - Evaluate specific literary techniques;
   - Employ close reading and argumentation skills;
   - Use a scholarly essay form, including: a thesis; topic sentences; argument and/or analysis; use of quotations; unified, coherent paragraphs and transitions; rhetorical strategies appropriate for purpose and audience; effective introductions and conclusions;
   - Produce writing under exam or exam-like conditions;
   - Write clear, concise, effective prose, and know how to identify as well as correct common mechanical and grammatical errors.
   - Evaluate secondary sources and integrate where applicable;
   - Write persuasive arguments in scholarly, academic essay format, using MLA documentation.

2. Information Literacy Skills:
   - Determine the nature and extent of the information needed.

- Know and use what information resources are available, in different formats.
- Use print and electronic resources effectively and efficiently.
- Evaluate sources for authority, relevance, reliability, currency and other criteria.
- Incorporate and integrate research through correct use of summary, paraphrase and quotation.
- Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.

3. Discussion/Reflection:
- Discuss and analyze literature in class;
- Identify a variety of literary approaches and/or theories that can be taken towards a text;
- Articulate one's position in a critical debate of ideas.
- Engage respectfully with different interpretations.
- Reflect on one's own writing for continuous improvement.

## 3. Required Materials

- *The Big Book of Science Fiction*, edited by Ann and Jeff Vandermeer, Vintage Books.

- William Gibson, *Burning Chrome*, HarperCollins.

## 4. Course Content and Schedule
- This course is offered online through D2L, and you will learn asynchronously on your own time, week-by-week. I am available to support your learning. There are no set times when you must be in front of your computer to receive course material from me. Class material will be available to you online on the D2L class website.
- Class material, such as video lectures and slides, will be available to all students on D2L week by week. I will not be making material available before the week we are discussing it. This will be done in order to minimize the potential for confusion, such as posting responses in the wrong discussion group.
- Schedule and Due Dates are subject to change with advance notice, according to the needs of the class.
- All assignments are due on their due date, unless an extension has been negotiated in advance with me.

| Week | Themes and Readings | Assignments |
|---|---|---|
| **1: Jan. 11-15** | Introduction: What is *Science Fiction*?<br><br>**Theme 1 - Space Madness:**<br><br>• "Hinterlands" - William Gibson (*Burning Chrome*, pg. 64-85)<br><br>• "The Conquest of Gola" - Leslie F. Stone (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 97-107) | **D2L Discussion Participation Ongoing Throughout Class** |
| **2: Jan. 18-22** | Understanding and Using MLA Citation Style<br><br>**Theme 1 - Space Madness:**<br><br>• "The Man Who Lost the Sea" - Theodore Sturgeon | |

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|---|---|---|
| | (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pg. 382-389)<br><br>• "The Astronaut" - Valentina Zhuravlyova (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 424-435) | |
| **3: Jan. 25-29** | **Theme 2 – Dystopias, Utopias, and Eutopias:**<br><br>• "The Star" – H.G. Wells (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 1-8)<br><br>• "The Comet" – W.E.B. Du Bois (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 53-61) | |
| **4: Feb. 1-5** | **Theme 2 – Dystopias, Utopias, and Eutopias:**<br>• "Johnny Mnemonic" - William Gibson (*Burning Chrome*, pg. 5-26) | **Assignment #1 Due** <u>**Friday, Feb. 5, 11:59 pm**</u> |
| **5: Feb. 8-12** | **Theme 2 – Dystopias, Utopias, and Eutopias:**<br><br>• "The Fate of the Poseidonia" - Clare Winger Harris (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 62-75)<br><br>• "Aye, and Gomorrah" - Samuel R. Delany (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 527-533) | |
| **6: Feb. 15-19** | **Reading Break – No New Course Material** | |
| **7: Feb. 22-26** | **Theme 2 – Dystopias, Utopias, and Eutopias:**<br><br>• "Let Us Save the Universe" - Stanislaw Lem (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 569-576)<br><br>• "The Gernsback Continuum" - William Gibson (*Burning Chrome*, pg. 28-40) | |
| **8: March 1-5** | **Theme 3 – Mad Science:**<br><br>• "The Winter Market" - William Gibson (*Burning Chrome*, pg. 126-151) | **Assignment #2 Due** <u>**Friday, March. 5, 11:59 pm**</u> |

| 9: March 8-12 | **Theme 3 – Mad Science:** |  |
|---|---|---|
|  | • "The Triumph of Mechanics" - Karl Hans Strobl (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 17-24) |  |
|  | • "The Last Question" - Isaac Asimov (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 300-308) |  |
|  | • "The Snowball Effect" - Katherine MacLean (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 221-229) |  |
| 10: March 15-19 | **Theme 3 – Mad Science:** |  |
|  | • "Good News from the Vatican" - Robert Silverberg (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 596-601) |  |
|  | • "The IWM 1000" - Alicia Yanez Cossio (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 632-635) |  |
|  | • "Blood Music" - Greg Bear (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 740-754) |  |
| 11: March 22-26 | **Theme 4 – Close Encounters:** |  |
|  | • "Beyond Lies the Wub" - Philip K. Dick 215-220 |  |
|  | • "The Belonging Kind" – William Gibson and John Shirley (*Burning Chrome*, pg. 48-63) |  |
| 12: March 29-April 2 | **Theme 4 – Close Encounters:** |  |
|  | • "The Squid Chooses Its Own Ink" - Adolfo Bioy Casares (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 436-445 |  |
|  | • "The Universe of Things" - Gwyneth Jones (*Big Book of* |  |

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|---|---|---|
| | *Science Fiction*, pgs. 1016-1023) | |
| **13: April 5-9** | **Theme 4 – Close Encounters:** "The Poetry Cloud" - Cixin Liu (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 1076-1096) | **Assignment #3 Due Friday, April. 9, 11:59 pm** |
| **14: April 12-16** | **Theme 4 – Close Encounters:** "Story of Your Life" - Ted Chiang (*Big Book of Science Fiction*, pgs. 1097-1125) | **Final Exam TBA during Final Examination Period April 19-27** |

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

| Assignments | Value (Total 100%) |
|---|---|
| Assignment #1 (1,000-1,200 words) | 15% |
| Assignment #2 (1,200-1,500 words) | 20% |
| Assignment #3 (1,500-1.800 words) | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| D2L Discussion Participation | 15% |

<u>**Assignment Expectations:**</u>

- **I am available for feedback on rough drafts of assignments with sufficient time before due date (at least one week). I will not edit your work, but I will provide guidance and suggestions regarding areas of improvement.**
- All assignments must be completed and submitted before the last day of class in order to count towards your final grade.
- All assignments must follow the instructions outlined on the specific assignment instruction sheet, as well as following the formatting requirements of the Modern Language Association (MLA), which will be discussed in class.
- Assignments will be submitted as digital submissions to a D2L Dropbox as a Microsoft Word, Apple Pages, ODT, or RTF document. **Please do not submit PDF copies.**
- Any extensions for assignments will be considered on a case-by-case basis in discussion with me. **Assignments submitted late without an extension will not receive comments, only a grade.** If you have trouble submitting any assignments on time, please contact me as early as possible.
- **Plagiarism** takes many forms. From the Camosun College School of Arts & Science Academic Honesty Guidelines ([http://camosun.ca/learn/school/arts-science/images/Arts%20and%20Science%20Academic%20Honesty%20Guidelines.pdf](http://camosun.ca/learn/school/arts-science/images/Arts%20and%20Science%20Academic%20Honesty%20Guidelines.pdf)): "As per Camosun College policy, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following: submitting an entire assignment written or made/created by someone else or based on collaboration with others; incorporating or paraphrasing passages from any source, including internet sites, without citations; submitting an assignment that an editor or tutor has partially or entirely rewritten for you; submitting any portion of a group project which contains plagiarism; submitting anything created with input from a group as your own individual work." Plagiarism will be met with serious consequences at Camosun College, as outlined in the Academic Honesty Guidelines. If you have difficulty completing assignments, please contact me for help, do not plagiarize.
- **Students are responsible for retaining their own assignments throughout the term.**
- Our assignments are designed to be challenging and to stretch your skills; there are high expectations and grading standards. If you can commit the requisite time and effort to class, aim to achieve your personal best on every assignment, and,

importantly, keep in contact with me about your challenges, you will do well.

## 6. Grading System

| X | Standard Grading System (GPA)

| | Competency Based Grading System

## 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

**Online Learning Supports:**
- Online learning support resources: http://camosun.ca/services/orientation/online-learning.html
- eLearning Tutorials for students: https://elearningtutorialscamosun.opened.ca/d2l-tutorials/

**Class Environment:**
- Our class is a shared environment where we are all learners and collaborators; it is a place where we have fun, and feel free to express ourselves. New knowledge is gained when we learn collaboratively and feel connected. Respect for each other, and the many divergent views we will encounter in this course, is a requirement for all participants. Practice judgment, maturity, politeness, and respect in all interactions and communications.
- Participation will be essential to creating a good online classroom. Being comfortable sharing your views and learning from others can take time, but it will benefit your learning and communication skills. Be curious, record your observations, questions, and ideas as you read, reflect on what we read and discuss, ask questions, and develop your critical thinking skills.

**Communication:**

Please check your email and D2L email regularly (and possibly consider linking these accounts, which you must do through D2L), in order to keep connected with this asynchronous class. To contact you via email, I will use the email address provided to me via Camlink, which is the email you used to register for classes with; if you do not receive an email message from me within the first week, please let me know. You can connect with me via email or during my virtual office hours listed above.

**Writing Support:**

Outside of consultations with me, Camosun College provides several online resources to support your writing and research:
- Camosun College Writing Center - http://camosun.ca/services/writing-centre/
- Camosun College English Help Center – http://camosun.ca/services/help-centres/english- upgrading.html
- WriteAway - https://writeaway.ca/
- Camosun Library AskAway - https://askaway.org/chat

**Student Conduct Policy:**

Become familiar with the Camosun College Student Conduct policy and apply it to your conduct as a Camosun College student. The policy is available here: http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education- academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf

**Important Dates:**

Feb. 15: Family Day (College closed)

Feb. 19 - Final Examination Schedule Posted for Winter '21
April 2 - Good Friday (College closed)
April 5 - Easter Monday (College closed)
April 16 - Last Day of Course
April 19 - 27 - Examination Period

## 8. Course Supports, Services and Policies

**Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support**
If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html or http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent

**College Services**
Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre.  For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at http://camosun.ca/

**College Policies**
Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at http://camosun.ca/about/policies/. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence, Student Ancillary Fees, Academic Integrity, Grade Review & Appeals, Student Misconduct and Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and Student Penalties and Fines.

### A. GRADING SYSTEMS *http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html*
**The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:**

1. **Standard Grading System (GPA)**

| Percentage | Grade | Description | Grade Point Equivalency |
|---|---|---|---|
| 90-100 | A+ | | 9 |
| 85-89 | A | | 8 |
| 80-84 | A- | | 7 |
| 77-79 | B+ | | 6 |
| 73-76 | B | | 5 |
| 70-72 | B- | | 4 |
| 65-69 | C+ | | 3 |
| 60-64 | C | | 2 |
| 50-59 | D | | 1 |
| 0-49 | F | Minimum level has not been achieved. | 0 |

2. **Competency Based Grading System (Non-GPA)**

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

| Grade | Description |
|---|---|
| COM | The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement. |
| DST | The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement. |
| NC | The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement. |

## B. Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

| Temporary Grade | Description |
|---|---|
| I | *Incomplete*: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family. |
| IP | *In progress*: A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. |