



## Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

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**Semester:** Spring

**Course Prefix:** ENGL

**Course Title:** Introduction to Science Fiction

**Year:** 2025

**Course and Section #:** 2130-01

**Credits:** 3

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Spring 2025

English 2130: Introduction to Science Fiction

1. Instructor: Dr. M. Eugene Crane
2. Office: Clarke Building, 4th floor, 401J (SE corner)
3. Phone: 801-863-6180
4. Email: [eugene.crane@uvu.edu](mailto:eugene.crane@uvu.edu)

### Course Description

- Presents a chronological survey of major Science Fiction authors from Mary Shelley (1818) to the present.
- Emphasizes the importance of character, setting, plot, and scientific ideas in analyzing literature.
- Uses discussion, lectures, videos, and films to help students increase appreciation for the literary genre and its works.
- Completers will have a better understanding of science fiction, plus enhanced writing skills.

In this class we will address the following questions: \*

- What counts as science fiction?
- What is good science fiction?
- What is the relationship between science fiction genres, such as books and film?
- How do science, culture, and science fiction influence each other?
- How is the genre of science fiction changing over time?

### Book list:

Butler, Octavia. *The Parable of the Sower*

*Please note that we will read a lot of short stories that I will provide.*

## Movies we may watch:

- Primer
- Moon
- Arrival
- The Matrix
- the remainder will be determined by the class

Note: Inasmuch as race, class and gender are part of culture, we will examine the role they play in science fiction. They are not the *only* lens we will use, but we will always be talking about the historical context for everything we read and view.

## Grades

1. Class discussion: 20%
2. Online discussion: 20%
3. Paper 1: 25%
4. Paper 2: 30%
5. Final exam: 5%

Class discussion (and being prepared) (includes attendance)	20%
Online responses before class	20%
Analysis paper	25%
Short story	25%
Comprehensive final exam based on readings and class discussion	10%
small amounts of extra credit	1-2%

The schedule of assignments will be online.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** If you have any disability that may impair your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the UVU Accessibility Services Department (LC 312, [www.uvu.edu/asd/](http://www.uvu.edu/asd/); 863-8747). Academic accommodations are granted for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the Accessibility Services Department.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY/PLAGIARISM STATEMENT** Plagiarism, or the use of others' words or ideas without proper attribution, is an impediment to your education and to the educational mission of Utah Valley University. Under the policy of the English & Literature Department, work that has been plagiarized must receive a failing grade. A distinction is made between unintentionally plagiarized work, which must be corrected in order to be considered for a passing grade, and intentional plagiarism, which will be forwarded to the Office of Student Affairs as a disciplinary matter in accordance with UVU's

statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities. Evidence of intentional plagiarism will cause you to fail this course. Please refer to:

[Plagiarism policy](#)

to read the department's full statement on plagiarism and review guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.

WRITING CENTER The Writing Center is a free service to you. Tutors are available to give you one-on-one help with writing assignments from any of your classes. Sign up for an appointment at the desk in LI 208 or call 863-8936. Help is also available [online](#).

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES Should it become necessary for you to quit attending this or any other class, you must officially withdraw through One Stop or the Registration Office no later than **January 27** or risk a failing grade. Please be aware that a UW (Unofficial Withdrawal) is equivalent to an E (failing grade) on your transcript.

Attendance: If you miss six classes for no reason, you will fail the course. This does not apply to illness, physical or mental.

You are expected to watch the course video found on "course media" and write a 200-word synopsis of each missed class and make up all missed assignments.

if you miss class for unavoidable reasons (crippling anxiety leading to insomnia, illness, dangerous weather, overwhelming family problems or crisis, depressive episodes, etc) then I understand. If you want to catch up, you can try watching the class lecture recordings, found in the My Media link on the left-hand side of the home page, now conveniently located right beneath the "Home" link.

I encourage attendance because I think you all have a lot to offer, and class is better when as many of you as possible can contribute. That's also why I want you to do the reading! I personally will not watch those videos, because watching recordings of myself makes me want to throw up. I don't know, *maybe your experience is similar!*

If you have to miss class, then please watch the lecture and email me a brief summary and remind me to fix your attendance the next time you are in class, or I will forget to do so within moments.

Please don't just stay home because your room is cozy and you binge watched whatever show you wacky young people are watching these days. I mean, you should probably do that once per semester or you're not a real student, but not every week.

More fun facts.
I think we're doing more than just reading fun stories or a book that doesn't seem to have a plot yet. We're learning and talking about culture, about your lives, about how stories and films can help us make sense of the world and our lives. This reading and discussion makes you a more interesting person. It can provide frameworks for thinking about life in useful ways. Knowing stuff is worth it for its own sake, but a lot of that knowledge can be put to use when you least expect it. Making connections between stories and ideas is one of my favorite sources of dopamine. In the parlance of

cyberpunk writers, you are upgrading your wetware, or updating the firmware to your brain. It's probably worth it.

I hope this class makes you a weirder person, in the absolute best sense of the word. But you have to show up, and you have to do the work.

A link to an audio clip from a recent podcast about exploring life options in college with Brene Brown:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Oy\\_AtukTTgyUVTsmdVJ42NCT4R6eAK\\_u/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Oy_AtukTTgyUVTsmdVJ42NCT4R6eAK_u/view?usp=sharing)

## Required University Syllabus Statements

### Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](mailto:DHHservices@uvu.edu)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

### Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

## **Equity and Title IX**

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@uvu.edu) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

## **Religious Accommodation**

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu). If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.

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