

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE FICTION AND SOCIETY, GNED 1999

J-TERM, 2010

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the Christian Liberal Arts educational experience using the genre of "Sci-Fi" as a springboard. Issues to be explored include the integration of all areas of knowledge, our roles as Christians in a diverse world, investigations of calling and vocation, historical and modern socio-political events and trends and their effect on current society, the role of science in society, the perception of science by society at-large, issues of diversity, and the importance of critical analysis/thinking skills. Students will practice these skills through class-room discussions, presentations, and writing assignments. Material for classroom discussion of these issues will come from directed readings in modern and classical science fiction, as well as viewing of materials from selected science fiction movies and television productions.

CLASS DATES

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 1:00 – 2:30pm Wood Sci. Bldg. Room 109

INSTRUCTOR

Bradley Jett, Ph.D.

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CREDIT HOURS

1 Credit

TEXTBOOKS TO PURCHASE

“The Moon is a Harsh Mistress”, by: Robert Heinlein

“The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy”, by: Douglas Adams

PREREQUISITES

None

CLASS FORMAT – “Group Discussion”

GRADING

Grades may be based on (but not limited to) attendance, quality of discussion participation, quality of written assignments, and quality of oral presentation assignments.

Grades will be calculated as a percentage of 300 total points. A (100-90%), B (89-80%), C (79-70%), D (69-60%), F (59-0%).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Oklahoma Baptist University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must self-identify and submit acceptable documentation in the Student Services office located in the Geiger Center, Room 101.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OBU STUDENTS

Please refer to the following link, http://www.okbu.edu/academics/forms/Syllabus_Attachment_Fall09.pdf for important information regarding class attendance policies academic policies and expectations, tutoring information, library hours, important dates and holidays, inclement weather policies, chapel attendance policies, and more.

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC
Jan 4	Introduction and course objectives. Public perceptions of Science Fiction. Discussion of Science Fiction sub-genres and famous and/or favorite Science Fiction authors and works.
Jan 5	Convergent evolution of Science and Science Fiction. Science fiction predictions and inventions.
Jan 6	What's possible, and What's not.
Jan 7	Are we alone in the universe? Principle of Anthropocentricity.
Jan 11	Diversity issues and race-relations.
Jan 12	Economics.
Jan 13	Government, Politics, Power, and Colonialism.
Jan 14	Marriage and Family.
Jan 18	Religion issues and Faith.
Jan 19	The Liberal Arts education in science fiction.
Jan 20	Student presentations.
Jan 21	Student presentations.

FINAL EXAM: Friday, January 22