

Teresa Lopez
ENG 102

Inquiry into “Alien Invasion”

In his commentary on the latest big-budget alien movie *The War of the Worlds*, Erik Lundegaard stated, “aliens are rarely just aliens.” This 102 course will introduce students to the interesting world of real and imagined invasion narratives. In understanding the rhetorical situation surrounding these various texts, students will have the opportunity to contextualize and analyze the complex relationship between representations of sci-fi and cultural aliens. By combining the idea of the foreign (or immigrant) alien with the outer-space aliens, students should recognize how many descriptions of alien beings reflect a complex psychological fear of both territorial and bodily invasion. What is meant by the term alien? What is the average person’s conception of “the alien”? We will compare popular sci-fi aliens in films with historical/contemporary narratives on immigration in the U.S. to discover any overlaps between the anxieties raised by these differing texts and representations.