

Sarah Newhouse
English 102: Inquiry into Science Fiction
snewhous@utk.edu

Description:

Science fiction is perhaps the most elastic of literary genres and this elasticity enables authors to address controversial issues in an empty and liberating environment. This course will use the literature and criticism of science fiction to investigate social issues, historical and scientific discourse, and the various ways that different writers address hope, possibility, the future, and the power of fiction. We will learn how texts have the power to create, alter, and investigate, and how these investigations can be valuable paths into our own inquiries of our own historical context and identity. The actual texts for this course will be eclectic, including movies, essays, short stories, 1-3 novels, and various bits and pieces of pop culture that may not, at first glance, qualify as “science fiction.”