

**EN2150 Science Fiction and Speculative Fiction
Module Outline & Lecture/Reading Schedule**

Date	Lecturer / Texts	Themes
15 Jan.	Intro. to course: 3 contributing lecturers	
16 Jan.	RB: Intro to Sci-Fi/Speculative Fiction & Extracts from Mary Shelley, <i>The Last Man</i> (1826)	Annihilation, devastation, imagining the future.
22 Jan.	RB: Extracts from Mary Shelley, <i>The Last Man</i> (1826)	Annihilation, devastation, imagining the future.
23 Jan.	MOC: H.G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine</i> (1895)	Development of sci-fi as a popular genre; The Politics and Paradoxes of Time Travel.
29 Jan	MOC: H.G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine</i> (1895)	Future Earths as Social Commentaries.
30 Jan.	MOC: Extracts from Ray Bradbury, <i>The Martian Chronicles</i> (1950)	Explorations & First Encounters; The Allure of Mars.
5 Feb.	MOC: Extracts from Ray Bradbury, <i>The Martian Chronicles</i> (1950)	Settling in Space: Humans as Martians.
6 Feb.	RB: Stanislav Lem, <i>Solaris</i> (1961)	Science, simulation and the real.
12 Feb.	RB: Stanislav Lem, <i>Solaris</i> : adaptations	Cinematic sci-fi: lyric, memory, and the self.
13 Feb.	Screening of <i>Solaris</i>	Time/Venue TBC
19 Feb.	MOC: Ursula LeGuin, Selected stories from <i>The Wind's Twelve Quarters</i> (1975)	Short story form; Light-Speed Travel & the Human Psyche; Sci-Fi & Queerness.
20 Feb.	MOC: Octavia Butler, "Bloodchild" (1984) (Blackboard)	Alien-Human Relations; Space, Race & the Re-gendered Body.
26 Feb.	RB: Philip K Dick: <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> (1968)	Nature, identity, mind
27 Feb.	RB: Philip K Dick: <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> / <i>Bladerunner</i> / 2049	Cinema, cyberpunk, sexuality
5 March	ET: William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984)	Cyberpunk and post-capitalist globalization
6 March	ET: William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> (1984)	Cyberpunk and post-capitalist globalization
12 March	RB: Russell Hoban, <i>Riddley Walker</i> (1980)	Post-atomic language
13 March	RB: Russell Hoban, <i>Riddley Walker</i> (1980)	Post-atomic language
19 March	<i>St Patrick's Day, Bank Holiday: No Lecture</i>	
20 March	ET: Margaret Atwood, <i>Oryx and Crake</i> . (2003)	Bioperversity
	TWO WEEK BREAK FOR EASTER	
9 April	ET: Margaret Atwood, <i>Oryx and Crake</i> . (2003)	Bioperversity

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10 April	MOC: Ann Leckie, <i>Ancillary Justice</i> (2013)	Space, Empire & Artificial Intelligence.
16 April	MOC: Ann Leckie, <i>Ancillary Justice</i> (2013)	Collective Consciousness & the Networked Mind.
17 April	Conclusion /Exam advice	

EN2150 SCIENCE FICTION AND SPECULATIVE FICTION

Once a cultural outlier, science fiction has become one of contemporary culture's most popular forms. This course will examine some of the most significant works of science fiction and 'speculative fiction', its less nerdy companion. We will explore the genre's literary genealogy from the post-apocalyptic fiction of Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* (1826) through the so-called 'golden age' of cold war science fiction to its present day status as mainstream literature in works such as Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* (2003). Studying a range of texts, this course will ask students to think comparatively about the works under discussion, making connections between them as well as striving to situate the texts in their specific historical and social contexts. We will think about how such fiction explores what it means to be human in a technologically changing world; writing the anthropocene era; the politics of science and speculation; imagining humanity and the forms of the future.

Venue: Monday 5-6 AM250 Colm O'hEocha Theatre and Tuesday 3-4 IT250 IT Building

Lecturers: Dr Rebecca Barr, Dr Muireann O' Cinneide and Dr Elizabeth Tilley

Core Texts:

Extracts from Mary Shelley, *The Last Man* (1826) (recommended ed. Morton D. Paley Oxford UP 2008)
H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (1895) (recommended ed. Patrick Parrinder, intro. Marina Warner Penguin 2005);
Extracts from Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles* (1950);
Russell Hoban, *Riddley Walker* (1980);
William Gibson, *Neuromancer* (1984);
Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake* (2003);
Ann Leckie, *Ancillary Justice* (2013)

Students wishing to read ahead should begin with **Shelley**.

Assessment: Mid-term Essay (40%)
End-of-Semester Examination (60%)