THE 405 – FILM: SCIENCE FICTION ON FILM

SYLLABUS SLN# 46845 / 46846 SUMMER B - 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR: Paco José Madden
OFFICE: N/A
E-MAIL: paco.madden@asu.edu

PLEASE PUT "THE 405: SCIENCE FICTION" IN SUBJECT OF EMAIL

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study and analysis course of Science Fiction on Film with an emphasis on the origins and history of science fiction in both literature and film, various subgenres, and the symbiotic relationship between real science and science fiction.

Due to this being a seven-week course, instead of just watching *Star Wars* and *The Matrix*, the class will focus on tracing the acheivements in the genre that influenced the great sci-fi franchises of the 20th and 21st Century.

There are great themes in science fiction, like human society, traveling in space and time, life on other planets, and crises created by technology or by alien creatures and environments that we will explore as well.

COURSE FORMAT:

- This class is an intensive online class. You're going to have a bunch of lectures AND you'll watch thirteen feature films and excerpts from thirteen other films in a very short time.

- Some of the films that are assigned may not be available through the class interface, but can still be streamed online

through alternative methods such as itunes, Netflix and Hulu for a small fee.

- The class is divided into Six (6) Modules – each of them focusing on one particular aspect of the Science Fiction genre. Each Module has its own separate lecture to introduce the films in the module. Please watch the lecture video first - THEN watch the film. BE SURE you don't miss the Introductory Lectures at the top of the Classroom page.

- At the end of each Module, there is a quiz with 20 multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions based on the lectures and the films viewed in each module. Each question is worth 5 points each. You have 1 hour to complete each quiz. After an hour, you start losing points.

- Also, you can't go back into the Classroom Interface once you are starting a Quiz. If you do, BAM! You get locked out! So don't do that. The system calls that "cheating."

- The Modules are ALL OPEN at the beginning of the Session so you may proceed at your own pace. The Quizzes will close periodically during the semester, based upon the academic calendar, so make sure you know when the Closing Dates are, or you could miss them. And that would be a terrible thing.

MAJOR NOTE ABOUT THE FILMS THAT ARE SCREENING IN THE CLASS:

Because of copyright issues, ASU Online cannot show all of the films that are required to watch in the class. These films

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can be watched through an alternative computer-based viewing system, such as Netflix, itunes, Amazon or Hulu or by getting DVDs or Blu-rays from your local library or online somewhere.

Just remember, you don't have to buy a book for this class. **The films you will need to find:**

Young Frankenstein, The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951 – not the crappy Keanu Reeves reboot)**, **La Jetee** (I think that's on YouTube), **Blade Runner: Final Cut** and **The Hidden Fortress.

It is each student's responsibility to watch the films that are assigned in the class. I bet they are all illegally posted on YouTube. But whatever you need to do – do it.

CONTENT:

Together we will understand the world of Science Fiction films over the last century (and a couple of decades). This course has an emphasis on the origins and history of science fiction in both literature and film, various subgenres, and the symbiotic relationship between real science and science fiction.

The course is narrated by Professor Philip Taylor, noted academic. So you'll hear him (he has this delightful British accent – you'll LOVE it) – but you'll see emails from ME.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any and all course work.

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Plagiarism and any other forms of academic dishonesty that is in violation with the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. For more information. Please see the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy: http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ASU Disability Resource Center (DRC) http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/# ; 480-965-1234; TDD: 480-965-9000. This is a very important step as accommodations may be difficult to make retroactively.

If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, in order to assure that youi receive your accommodations in a timely manner, please present this documentation to the instructor no later than the end of the first week of the semester so that your needs can be address effectively.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE:

If you wish to withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so. Course registration changes can be processed through My ASU: http//my.asu.edu but you need to withdraw pretty quick. Go to the Academic Calendar and check out the deadline.

COURSE GRADING:

There are six quizzes, one at the end of each module, each containing 20 questions. Each correct answer is worth 5 points. Therefore, you can achieve a maximum point count of 600 on the quizzes. You final is worth 25% or your grade and is divided into

two parts. Logline/concept is 50 points (or 5% of your grade) and is due Week 3. The final project 150 points (or 25% of your grade) and at the end of Week 6.   EXTRA CREDIT IS NOT OFFERED. Your final point count will be converted to a letter grade…

This course is graded on the scale system.

POINTS AVAILABLE			GRADE SCALE
800 -	792	=	A+
791 -	729	=	A
728 -	720	=	A-
719 -	711	=	B+
710 -	649	=	B
648 -	640	=	B-
639 -	631	=	C+
472 -	560	=	C
559 -	480	=	D
479 -	0	=	E

Please Read Carefully These General Conditions for Taking An Online Quiz:

- You need to have reliable access to the Internet when you take the quiz.
- Starting a quiz during the last 10-15 minutes of the quiz window is unwise, especially if you encounter technical problems; remember, **technical support from Herberger Online is only available Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm. There is no technical support on weekends.**
- Quizzes can only be taken online. Submission of quizzes via email or in printed form will not be accepted.

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- The use of smart phones for taking a quiz is forbidden. Do not even attempt it.
- Quizzes are not to be taken as a group effort or with any other form of collaboration.
- Do NOT navigate away from an exam/quiz once you've opened it for any reason!
- You can use your handwritten notes ONLY. No other computer or Web pages, including search engines, should be open while taking a quiz. Accessing, or trying to access course lectures or any other course page while you are taking a quiz or opening new browsers, etc., will log you out of the exam/quiz and invalidate your exam/quiz session, which will result in a zero grade for that particular quiz… no exceptions.
- All violations of this policy detected during the semester will be sanctioned, even if the exam/quiz has already been submitted. Finding answers on Google, Bing, etc. can invalidate your quiz session**. Please be aware that all browser activity is logged by the Web server**.
- If your activity log contains a message such as "User entered site multiple times with an open Assessment", you will receive a score of zero (0) for that quiz. If there is a second instance of access to outside material during a quiz, your grade will be lowered by one full letter. A formal request will also be filed that you receive a grade of XE (Failure due to Academic Dishonesty) in the course.
- For the serious consequences of violating academic integrity, please go to: https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity

SUBMITTING ONLINE QUIZZES:

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Certain conditions apply for the submission of an online quiz. The important ones are:

- Online quizzes that have been submitted CANNOT be reset (see below). Grades will stand as posted.
- If you experience computer or technical problems during an online quiz DO NOT SUBMIT the quiz. For instance, if text or images fail to load, or the quiz itself seems incomplete or unresponsive.
- If you suspect a technical error, exit the browser immediately and address the problem by trying to take the quiz again on a different computer, or by contacting technical support at herbergeronline@asu.edu. Do not contact the instructor.
- Remember: submitted quizzes cannot be retaken. **No exceptions**.

RESETS FOR ONLINE QUIZZES:

A reset for an online quiz is an action usually taken by a student prior to contacting technical support. If you experience a glitch during an online quiz, click the course logout button and close your browser. When you attempt to restart the online quiz, the system will ask you to confirm the reset. Some important facts about resets:

- Only one online reset is allowed per online quiz.
- **In total, only two online resets of online quizzes are allowed in any given semester. In other words, you can only reset two of the six quizzes available in this online course.**

MISSED QUIZZES:

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the dates and times

for the online quizzes, however, there are conditions that apply for missed online quizzes. The important ones are:

- An online quiz can be taken if it was missed because of an excused absence (see below). Permission from the instructor is necessary.
- A missed online quiz for reasons other than an excused absence can be taken only with permission from the instructor.
- If you miss an online quiz, you must inform the instructor immediately or at least within the subsequent 48 hours and provide an electronic copy (e.g., a PDF file) of the document supporting your absence (e.g., doctor's note, funeral announcement, letter from ASU's Athletic Department, etc.).
- If you experience personal, medical or other unforeseen problems during a quiz, DO NOT TAKE OR SUBMIT THE ONLINE QUIZ – instead, email the instructor immediately to begin a discussion of your situation.

- Depending on the situation, the instructor may ask for a different type of quiz as the replacement for a missed online quiz.

EXCUSED ABSENCES
Excused absences apply for online quizzes. They include:

- Personal illness (documented);
- Religious holidays (conforming to the ASU list);
- Unexpected personal emergencies such as death of an immediate family member (documented);
- Jury duty or other similar court obligation;
- Military duty and/or assignment;
- Direct participation in a sport event as an ASU athlete (documented).

Absences that will not be considered include:

- A previously scheduled obligation such as a family reunion or trip;
- Personal obligations prior to or after an official holiday;
- Job obligations;
- Attending a wedding (even your own);
- Illness of a family member;
- Workload in other courses;
- The death of a pet.

MAKE-UP QUIZZES:

If granted, the date for a make-up exam will be determined by the instructor in concert with student needs. NOTE: Any act that violates the implicit code of academic integrity will be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

FINAL
You have three choices for your final.

(1) NEW THIS YEAR Analyze a Science-Fiction Film Using the Scientific Method: This might be especially appealing to science geeks, but you don't have to be a science geek in order to apply the scientific method. In fact, I have outlined the scientific method and a sample analysis of *Godzilla* (2014). Choose one of the following films and write an analysis using the Analyze a Science-Fiction Film Using the Scientific Method Worksheet. You may ONLY chose one of the following films: *Annihilation* (2018), *Arrival* (2016), *Ex Machina* (2014), *Interstellar* (2014), or *Jurassic Park* (1993). You must view these films (or read the screenplay) on your own.

(2)   Creative Project: This can be a short film script (5 – 12 pages) in screenplay format, a 2-4 page outline for a feature length screenplay, a storyboard of a scene, a short film, or another type of creative project—tumblr page, edited video clips with a new storyline (subtitles or dialogue). The subject matter should be science-fiction of some kind—not horror or fantasy or another genre. Yes, you can have horror sci-fi (*Alien* franchise) and fantasy sci-fi (*Star Wars* franchise), but you can't write a story about ghosts in the present/past or medieval fantasy.

(3)   Academic Project: A 3 – 5 page paper or presentation on a topic of sci-fi film. A presentation (must be filmed and posted on YouTube with link provided).

As mentioned previously, your final project is 25% of your grade and is divided into two parts.

By week 3, you must send the following for you selected project:

(1)   Analyze a Science-Fiction Film Using the Scientific Method: Hypotheses based on the scientific method used in your selected film. These should be an "if . . . then . . ." statement. You can (and more often than not) send more than one if there is more than one for your film. These should be a major or the major hypotheses in the film.

(2)   Creative Project: A log-line for either a short film script, outline for a feature length screenplay, or short film. You will be provided with a template for the log-line. Follow the template or an automatic 5 points will be deducted from the first part of your final project. For

other Creative Projects you must submit a clear paragraph on the project. What it is? For example a film poster for a made-up science-fiction film. How does it relate to course material? The poster will show a bad AI like in *Aliens*, *Colossus*, *Terminator* chasing down a humans similar to the image from the film poster image of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. There is a UFO in one corner of the image similar to the disc shaped-alien ships of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. The story is about artificial intelligence hunting down the last remnants of humanity. Humanity is eventually saved when they join in fighting the AIs with extraterrestrial beings who have themselves escaped the AIs that took over their planet.

(3)   Academic Project: An introductory paragraph that contains a topic sentence, at least three supporting sentences (the supporting sentences should be the topic paragraph for each paragraph in the essay), and a concluding sentence.

By Week 5, you need to have completed and submitted your final project or provided a link to your final project. For a short screenplay, you must use proper screenplay format. For an analysis, please follow the analysis sheet provided by the instructor.

Please note: If you choose to write a short screenplay for your final project, it MUST be in proper screenplay format. This option should only be used by students who have taken an introductory screenwriting class. I will provide an example of a properly formatted screenplay. If you turn in a screenplay that does not look exactly like the example (with

proper margins, spacing, and capitalization), an automatic 25 points will be taken off the second part of your final project grade).

The final project should be a new and original work. If you wish to submit a revised work (a project from another class at ASU), you must include information about what was changed and the original work itself.

Any questions on the final, should be addressed to the instructor at paco.madden@asu.edu.

GENERAL WARNING and ONLINE POLICIES

Some of the films in class may contain language that is considered obscene or profane. Also, there may be scenes that are graphically explicit in portraying sexual or violent acts. And there may be ideas or practices endorsed by a specific motion picture that are considered immoral or amoral by some standards.

Please consider the cautions above carefully because this class might not be for you and the appropriate time to withdraw is now. Also, if you find films made in a foreign language with subtitles or in glorious black-and-white with monaural sound distracting or difficult to view, please make that a big part of your consideration for taking the class. You are responsible for all viewing materials.

Online courses are significantly different from 'live' courses. Consequently, students need to be aware of protocol and conditions that govern such courses.

Computer Requirements:

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You must have a computer – your own or have access to a computer on campus – that will allow you to interact with the online course. The computer must be capable of consistently streaming Quicktime movie files.

The use of smart phones (iPhone, Blackberry, etc.) is not recommended. This course is known to work on all major browsers, including Safari, Firefox, Chrome, and Internet Explorer, on both Macintosh computers and PCs. Note: the use of Safari or Firefox is highly recommended.

Additionally, you must have computer skills that will allow you to surf the internet, access specific sites, confer via email, download and upload files, and any other course-related activities.

Computer Support:

The HerbergerOnline group (the distance learning team of the Herberger Institute for Design and The Arts) provides the computer support for the course. This group handles all computer-related issues and technical questions. Please note that your communication must be by email only, at herbergeronline@asu.edu.

Please do not communicate with the instructor for questions related to computer support. Technical support is available Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm. There is no technical support on weekends, so please keep this is mind if you choose to take exams on weekends.

Office Hours: There are no office hours for this online course. Except for questions about computer support, technical issues, and online exams, which must be addressed with the computer support group

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(above), please communicate directly with the instructor via email ([paco.madden@asu.edu)](mailto:paco.madden@asu.edu).

<u>Because of ASU policy you must use your ASU email address when communicating with the instructor</u>. Please be mindful that emails are not always effective in communicating the intent of your message. Consequently, take the time to compose what you want to say. Remember: You are not texting a friend who knows you well!

PLEASE PUT "THE 405: SCIENCE FICTION" IN SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL.

General Conditions:

As stated above, access to a suitable computer and adequate computer skills are critical for your success in this online course.

Consequently, the instructor will not consider computer-related excuses for the failure to meet course requirements (excuses such as: technical incompatibility, sudden infection by computer viruses, inadequate access to the Internet or any other similar reasons).

Neither will inadequate computer skills be considered as a valid excuse for not successfully completing the course.

NOTE: You are strongly advised not to enroll in the online course if either computer access or computer skills are an issue.
MODULE CALENDARS (THE FIRST TWO MODULES OPEN AT THE START OF THE COURSE. THE FIRST MODULE CLOSES AFTER ONE WEEK, EACH SUBSEQUENT MODULE CLOSES IN TWO WEEKS).

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Opens	Closes	MODULE 1
07/03/2019 9:00 AM	07/17/2019 11:59 PM	**Introduction: The Early Years** A Trip To The Moon (1902) 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea (1916) The Lost World (1925) Woman In The Moon (1929) Just Imagine (1930) excerpt **20 Question Quiz @ 5 Points per Question = 100 Points Possible**

Opens	Closes	MODULE 2
07/03/2019 9:00 AM	07/24/2019 11:59 PM	**It's Built Better Than We Thought** The Master Mystery (1919) excerpt Forbidden Planet (1956) 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) Colossus, The Forbin Project (1970) **20 Question Quiz @ 5 Points per Question = 100 Points Possible**

********** LOGLINES & CONCEPTS DUE 07/26/2019 **********
50 points

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Opens	Closes	MODULE 3
07/10/2019 9:00 AM	07/24/2019 11:59 PM	**It's Alive!** Frankenstein (1910) The Bride of Frankenstein (1935) Young Frankenstein (1974) **20 Question Quiz @ 5 Points per Question = 100 Points Possible**

50 Points

Opens	Closes	MODULE 4
07/17/2019 9:00 AM	07/31/2019 11:59 PM	**Better Dead Than Red** The War of the Worlds (1953) Them! (1954) Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956) The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **20 Question Quiz @ 5 Points per Question = 100 Points Possible**

Opens	Closes	MODULE 5
07/24/2019 9:00 AM	08/7/2018 11:59 PM	**The Future Ain't What It Used To Be**

		La Jetée (1962) short Twelve Monkeys (1995) Metropolis (1927) Blade Runner (1982) **20 Question Quiz @ 5 Points per Question = 100 Points Possible**

******************* FINAL PROJECT DUE 8/09/2018 ****************
150 Points**

Opens	Closes	MODULE 6
07/31/2019 9:00 AM	08/13/2019 11:59 PM	**A Long Time Ago In A Galaxy Far, Far Away...** Flash Gordon (1940) excerpt The Hidden Fortress (1958) excerpt The Dam Busters (1955) excerpt 633 Squadron (1964) excerpt George Lucas In Love (1999) short **20 Question Quiz @ 5 Points per Question = 100 Points Possible**

THE CLOSING NOTES…

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THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR IS THROUGH E-MAIL paco.madden@asu.edu - I'm good at getting back with you. And if I don't get back with you in 48 hours, please EMAIL ME AGAIN. REMEMBER: put THE 405 – SCIENCE FICTION in the Subject Line

LAST WARNING ABOUT UNIT CLOSING DEADLINES, if you have an issue with meeting a Module closing deadline, you cannot appeal missing a Module. It's your responsibility!

This is due to the fact that these Modules have been open SINCE THE SEMESTER STARTED. Waiting until the last minute is not acceptable. Don't bother asking.

That's It! Send me questions if you need to! I AM HERE FOR YOU! paco.madden@asu.edu - and May the Force be with You!