

# COLT 204: World Science Fiction

## MONSTERS, ALIENS, CYBORGS

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Although science fiction (SF) purports to “explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before,” the genre is decidedly earthbound, even nation-bound, usually reflecting the hopes and fears of the socio-historical context in which it’s written. Often viewed as an English-language, if not expressly American phenomenon, there does exist a significant body of non-English language SF, some imitative and some quite distinctive from well-known US writers.

**Required texts:** (available at the UO Bookstore)  
 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*  
 H. G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*  
 Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

### Course requirements:

25% Participation (a combination of attendance and attentiveness, participation in class discussion and completion of assignments)  
 3 @ 25% Exams (Two in-class; one take-home)

**Tentative Schedule:** Unless otherwise indicated, films will be screened in class. Short stories are available in PDF format via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>). Please have readings completed by the date listed below.

4/4	Introductions—Defining the Genre	5/11	Discussion: Legacies of <u>The War of the Worlds</u>
4/6	Reading: Rebetez-Cortes, “The New Prehistory” (Colombia, 1972); Bradbury, “All Summer in a Day” (US, 1954) Film: Marker, “La Jetée” (France, 1962); Roshan, <u>Koi... Mil Gaya</u> (India, 2003)		Film: Melies, “A Trip to the Moon” (France, 1902)
	Science and Technology—Making Monsters	5/16	Film: Scott, <u>Alien</u> (US/UK, 1979)
4/11	Reading: Shelley, <u>Frankenstein</u> (UK, 1818/1831)	5/18	Reading: Butler, “Bloodchild” (US, 1984)
4/13	Reading: Shelley, cont.	5/23	<b>Exam 2</b>
4/18	Film: Whale, <u>Frankenstein</u> (US, 1931)	5/25	Cyborgs—The Post Human Reading: Dick, <u>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</u> (US, 1968)
4/20	Discussion: Legacies of <u>Frankenstein</u>		Weekend (Film) Assignment: Scott, <u>Blade Runner</u> (US/UK, 1982)
4/25	Film: Honda, <u>Gojira</u> (Japan, 1954)	5/30	Reading: Dick, cont. Discussion of <u>Blade Runner</u>
4/27	<b>Exam 1</b>	6/1	Film: Oshii, <u>Ghost in the Shell</u> (Japan, 1995)
	Alien Invaders	6/6	Reading: Gibson, “Johnny Mnemonic” (US, 1987)
5/2	Reading: Wells, <u>The War of the Worlds</u> (UK, 1898)	6/8	Conclusions Video Games: TBA
5/4	Reading: Wells, cont. Audio: Welles, <u>The War of the Worlds</u> (US, 1938)		
5/9	Film: Haskin, <u>The War of the Worlds</u> (US, 1953)	6/15	<b>Exam 3</b> due no later than 5pm – no exceptions.