**LMC 3215: Science Fiction Film and Television**

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 1102, LMC 2500 (or 2400, 2700, or 2800)

**Core Area:** This course fulfills Core Area C (Humanities) requirements

**Description.** This course is a critical investigation of the relationship between film and television treatments of science fiction, focusing on the genre as it has developed during film history and as it has today become one of the most popular forms of television narrative. The course begins by examining how we define and distinguish a genre like science fiction: what are its common elements, themes, and structures. It then traces out how science fiction’s generic characteristics have developed from silent film to the present, how those characteristics first translated into television narrative, and how the genre has evolved on television in line with specific traits of the televisual medium. By looking at a number of key films and examples from several popular television series, students will come to understand what the various media versions of the genre share, how they differ, and how a specific medium inflects a cultural production like science fiction.

**Objectives:** In this course students will:

* study sf film and television texts within an historical framework to become familiar with cultural and aesthetic forces that have shaped their development,
* learn to read, analyze, and interpret sf film and television texts,
* develop a familiarity with key icons, themes, and structures of media sf,
* understand the complex relationship between popular media and societal change.

**Texts:**

* Telotte. *The Science Fiction Film*. Cambridge UP, 2001. (SFF)
* Telotte, *Science Fiction TV*. Routledge, 2014. (SFTV)
* Redmond, ed. *Liquid Metal: The Science Fiction Reader*. (LM)
* Selected Films and Television episodes, screened Wednesdays
* A Netflix, Amazon Prime, or similar movie streaming service

**Graded Assignments:**

* 2 Quizzes (each 20% of grade)
* Oral Report (20% of grade)
* Term Paper (20 % of grade)
* Final Exam (20% of grade)

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Excessive class absences (more than 5) will result in a one-letter-grade reduction in the final grade.

**ADAPTS Information:**

This course adheres to Georgia Tech ADAPTS policies. For information see the following site: <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

**Honor Code Policy:**

All students are expected to abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code. Any evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade on an assignment and the student being reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for disciplinary action. For information on Georgia Tech’s Honor Code, see the following site:

http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9

**WEEK TOPIC**

1 Genre and Media Context: Telotte (SFF)

2 Science Fiction and Fantasy: Telotte (SFF); see *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*

3 Aesthetics of Science Fiction: Sobchack, Neale (LM); see *Metropolis*

4 Cultural Context: Sontag, Telotte (LM); see *The Thing*

5 Uncanny SF: Telotte (SFF); see *Forbidden Planet*; QUIZ 1

6 Fantastic SF: Telotte (SFF); see *THX 1138*

7 Marvelous SF: Telotte (SFF); see *Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind*

8 Crossing Media Forms: Telotte (SFF); see *Serenity*

9 Early Network TV and the Space Opera: SFTV ch. 1; see *Rocky Jones*

10 Anthology TV and SF: SFTV ch. 2; see *The Twilight Zone*; QUIZ 2

11 Cultural Contexts: SFTV ch. 3, Jenkins (LM); see *Star Trek*

12 Cultural Contexts: Jenkins (LM); see *Battlestar Galactica*

13 SF Audiences: SFTV ch. 4; see *Farscape*

14 Hybridity and SFTV: SFTV ch. 5; see *Firefly*

15 Theorizing Difference with Media Fandom: Tulloch (LM); TERM PAPER DUE