**J. P. Telotte**

Email: [jay.telotte@lmc.gatech.edu](mailto:jay.telotte@lmc.gatech.edu)

Office: Skiles 350

Office Hours: MWF 11-12

**LMC 3252 Studies in Film and Television**

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 1102 and (LMC 2800 or LMC 2500 or LCC 2500 or LMC 2400 or LCC 2400)

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

**Course Description.** This course is a critical investigation of the relationship between the media of film and television that uses as a test case a comparison of how a specific genre operates in each medium. It focuses on science fiction as it has developed during film history and as it has become one of the most popular forms of television narrative. The course begins by examining how we define and distinguish different genres, how they share elements, and how they function culturally. It then considers how these generic characteristics have developed in science fiction from silent film to the present, and it then examines several popular television series to determine what the various media versions of the genre share, how they differ, but especially how a specific medium inflects a cultural production like science fiction.

**Learning Outcomes:**

In LMC 3252 students will:

* be able to describe relationships among languages, philosophies, cultures, literature, ethics, or the arts;
* learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents,
* be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts,
* study film and television texts within an historical framework to become familiar with the various forces that shape such cultural productions,
* learn to read, analyze, and interpret film and television texts,
* develop a familiarity with a variety of historically-situated theories of film and television production and viewership,
* understand the complex relationship between popular media and societal change.

**Texts:**

1. Telotte. *The Science Fiction Film*. Cambridge UP, 2001. (SFF)
2. Telotte, ed. *The Essential Science Fiction TV Reader*. UP of Kentucky, 2008. (TVR)
3. Redmond, ed. *Liquid Metal: The Science Fiction Reader*. (LM)
4. Selected Films and Television episodes, screened Wednesdays, 3-5, rm. 368

**Graded Assignments:**

2 Quizzes (each 20% of grade)

Oral Report (20% of grade)

Term Paper (20 % of grade)

Final Exam (20% of grade)

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

Participation assumes presence; that is, you must show up to class on time on a regular basis. You are allowed three free absences to do with as you please.  Excessive class absences (more than 5) will result in a one-letter-grade reduction in the final grade.

*If you miss six or more classes, you run the risk of failing the course as a whole.* If you have an illness or family emergency that prevents you from attending class, contact the instructor as soon as possible by email. If you are late for class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not recorded as absent. If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed *before* the next class.

In addition to attendance, your participation grade will be based on the following criteria:

* Doing the readings and assignments
* Actively participating in class discussions and assignments
* Actively participating in all small-group activities (workshops, etc.)

Your participation grade will be negatively affected by any forms of behavior that disrupt the classroom experience, including:

* Failure to do the readings
* Failure to be courteous to others when talking in class or posting online
* Disrupting class in nonverbal ways (Reading the paper, checking your cell phone, doing homework, or sleeping in class. If you get caught doing these things you will be counted absent for the day.)

**Students with Disabilities:**

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation for any sort of disability, please make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities should also contact Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) to discuss reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 404-894-2564 (voice) or 404-894-1664 (voice/ TDD) or visit Suite 210 in the Smithgall Student Services Building. For more information, please [visit the ADAPTS website](http://adapts.gatech.edu/).

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

All work you turn in for this class must be your own work, with all outside reference sources properly cited and acknowledged. According to Section 3 of the [Academic Honor Code](http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php),

Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. The immediate objective of the Honor Code is to prevent any students from gaining an unfair advantage over other students through academic misconduct. Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort student grades or other student academic records. Such acts include but need not be limited to the following:

* + Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
  + Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;
  + Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations including authorship (plagiarism);
  + False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the claimant;
  + Alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
  + Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a member of the faculty so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
  + Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of the student.

While these acts constitute assured instances of academic misconduct, other acts of academic misconduct may be defined by the professor.

Students must sign the Honor Agreement affirming their commitment to uphold the Honor Code before becoming a part of the Georgia Tech community. The Honor Agreement may reappear on exams and other assignments to remind students of their responsibilities under the Georgia Institute of Technology Academic Honor Code.

**A Further Note about Plagiarism:**

According to Dictionary.com, [plagiarism](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/plagiarism?s=t) is defined as:

1. an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author’s work as one’s own, as by not crediting the original author;
2. a piece of writing or other work reflection such unauthorized use or imitation.

In addition, other instances of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, putting a quotation around an entire article, and citing it, and turning that “quoted” article in as your work; cutting and pasting more than 10% of your paper; improperly citing sources including forgetting to include a source on your works cited page or within the body of your texts; imitating the arguing style of another author without attribution; buying and turning in a paper from a term paper mill; forgetting to use quotation marks for a direct quotation; paraphrasing materials from a source without proper documentation; etc.

Students who engage in academic dishonesty may receive a zero on the assignment or fail the course. In addition, the instance will be reported to the Dean of Students who may take further action. If you have any questions involving these or any other issues regarding plagiarism, the Academic Honor Code, or what constitutes appropriate academic integrity, please talk to me or visit the [Academic Honor Code website](http://www.honor.gatech.edu/).

**Week-by-week Schedule**

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: Telotte, Dixon (TVR); see *Rocky Jones*

10 Anthology TV and SF: Hill (TVR); see *The Twilight Zone*; QUIZ 2

11 Cultural Contexts: Booker (TVR), Jenkins (LM); see *Star Trek*

12 Marvelous SFTV: Holloway (TVR); see *Farscape*

13 Uncanny SFTV: Hodges (TVR); see *The X-Files*

14 Points of Comparison: Lavery, Tryon (TVR); see *Firefly*

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