Professor Lisa Yaszek

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**LMC 4698: Research Assistantship**

Research in the Science Fiction Lab

**Course Prerequisites**: English 1102

**Course Attributes**: None

**Course Description**

In this class you will enhance your individual research and communication skills as well as your collaborative work skills by developing an annotated bibliography on the science fiction topic of your choice for the Science Fiction Lab’s Online Science Fiction Dictionary and Research Portal (sciencefictionlab.lmc.gatech.edu). For the first month of the semester the Georgia Tech Archive specialists you in archival research techniques and I will introduce you to key science fiction studies resources used by scholars across the globe. Over the next two months, you will research and write up your topic based on feedback from me and other members of the lab. In the final weeks of class, you will upload your entry and hyperlink it to other relevant topics and resources.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completing LMC 4698, you should have acquired these skills:

* Science and Technology Knowledge Construction: Students will understand that scientific and technological innovation occurs in a social context, and they will be able to recognize how the social—in this case, science fiction—influences scientific and technical discourses.
* Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to analyze and interpret not only science fiction stories across media, but also relevant scientific and technical documents.
* Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with key theoretical approaches in science fiction studies and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
* Literary/Film/Narrative Art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of science fiction, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
* Communication Skills: Students will be able to gather, organize, and express information clearly and accurately, with sensitivity to audience. They will be able to do so both by using traditional media and by tapping the potential of new digital media.
* Historical Analysis: Students will study science fiction within an historical framework to become familiar with the various forces that shape artistic and commercial production. They will learn to interpret history actively, rather than passively accepting archival information.

**Assignments and Grading**

You will complete one four-part dictionary entry for this class and you will work closely with your labmates to make sure you are all constructing your entries clearly and consistently. Here are the grade percentages for each task:

Dictionary Entry Introduction: 20%

Dictionary Entry Annotated Bibliography: 20%

Dictionary Entry Relevant Story Summaries: 20%

Dictionary Entry Relevant GT Resources: 20%

Participation: 20%

I will provide specific instructions about how to construct each part of your dictionary entry at the appropriate time in the semester. You can also get a feel for this in advance by looking at previously posted entries.

Generally speaking, we will meet at as group for 2-3 hours once each week to coordinate on our progress and to review what each of you have researched and written about for the week. Attendance at our group meetings is mandatory. This means you must show up on time on a regular basis. I will allow you two absences to do with as you please, but you will need to use them wisely: beginning with your third absence, your overall *final* grade will be lowered by 5 points for each absence. (For example, a 92 (A) would become a 87 (B) if you were absent three times.) *If you miss five or more meetings, I reserve the right to fail you in the course as a whole.* If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed *before* the next class meeting. You are also responsible for getting copies of any handouts that are given out in your absence.

Please note that there are three kinds of absences that will NOT be counted against your participation grade PROVIDED THAT you provide appropriate documentation within one week of the absence:

If you have a family emergency and provide me with a note from the proper authority;

If you must be out of town for a GT extracurricular activity and provide me with a note from your coach or faculty advisor;

If you have an internship or job interview and provide me with documentation from the company in question (the invitation to the interview is ideal in this case).

**Students with Disabilities**

Should self-report to the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students:

220 Student Services Building

Atlanta, GA 30332-0285

404.894.2564 (voice)/404.894.1664 (voice/TDD)

www.adapts.gatech.edu/guidebook.html

**Scholastic Dishonesty and Academic Misconduct**

All of the writing you submit for this course must be your own. If I suspect you of plagiarizing any part of a project, (passing off someone else’s writing as your own), I will submit your name and the particular project to the Dean of Students, who will then take the appropriatedisciplinary action. The Georgia Tech honor code (at www.honor.gatech.edu/honorcode/honorcode.html)defines academic misconduct as:

* 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;
* Unauthorized collaboration with a student in the commission of academic requirements;
* 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 a student.

**Weekly Schedule**

Week Topic

1. Introductions and organizational matters
2. Tour of the Science Fiction Collection at Tech
3. Orientation to archival research methods and tools
4. Orientation to science fiction studies research methods and tools
5. Independent meetings with professor to calibrate research projects
6. Independent research week; professor will be available for consultation
7. Introduction drafts due; workshop as a group
8. Introduction draft revisions due; workshop as a group
9. Annotated bibliography drafts due; workshop as a group
10. Annotated bibliography draft revisions due; workshop as a group
11. Independent reading week; professor will be available for consultation
12. Story summary drafts due; workshop as a group
13. Story summary draft revisions due; workshop as a group
14. Relevant GT resource list due; workshop as a group
15. Workshop full dictionary entries and begin uploading
16. Workshop full dictionary entries and complete uploading