

Study Goals for Course Introduction

Early works of science fiction (Chapter 1 in the text plus material covered in class.)

By the end of our discussion of some of the earliest works of science fiction, you should know or be able to do the following.

- Be familiar with the earliest motion picture of significant length (i.e. more than just a few minutes long), including the subject, director and where and when it was made.
- Be able to identify some things shown in that same motion picture which *might* have been plausible, given the scientific understanding of the time.
- Be able to identify some things shown in that same motion picture which are completely impossible, given our current understanding.
- Be able to identify one thing shown in that same motion picture which actually happened more than 60 years later, and the way in which it happened was almost exactly as shown in the movie.
- Be familiar with some of the earliest works of science fiction literature, including their subjects, authors and approximate dates (decade) of publication.
- Know some things about human spaceflight, including the meaning of *escape velocity* and what constitutes “safe” acceleration for launching a human into space.