



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES
KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (DU), BHUBANESWAR
B. TECH SEMESTER VI OPEN ELECTIVE
INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE FICTION

Course Title	Introduction to Science Fiction
Course Code	HS30054
Course Credit	03
Teacher	Dr. S. D. Chaudhuri Department of Humanities, School of Liberal Studies, KIIT sudeshna.chaudhurifhu@kiit.ac.in, 8117867177
Prerequisite	+2 level knowledge in English literature
Course Objective	Introducing students to science fiction literature, both classic and contemporary. The aim is to nurture an interest in literature for those who already have it, and to create interest for those who do not, through a genre of literature that may be more relevant and exciting to them than old classics. Texts will deal with fictional representations of dystopia, artificial intelligence, theories of technology, cyberpunk, and alternative reality.
Course Outcomes	CO1: Understand the concept of genre literature CO2: Acquire knowledge of the important concepts of science fiction CO3: Learn methods of textual analysis and critique CO4: Recognise the role of popular and commercial literature in everyday life CO5: Identify the role of technology and ethics in real-life future CO6: Develop the ability to analyse an issue from multiple perspectives
Course Content	Unit 01: Early Science Fiction, Emergence through 1917 Text: Jules Verne & Michel Verne, 'In the Year 2889' (1889) Definition of science fiction, timeline and categories of science fiction Supplementary reading: H. G. Wells, 'The Chronic Argonauts' (1888)
	Unit 02: Science Fiction between the Wars, 1918-1939 Text: E. M. Forster, 'The Machine Stops' (1928) Science fiction as expression of potential; eutopia and dystopia Supplementary reading: Murray Leinster, 'Proxima Centauri' (1935) Supplementary viewing: Fritz Lang, <i>Metropolis</i> (1927)
	Unit 03: The Golden Age and the Atomic Age 1940-1963

	<p>Text: C. L. Moore, 'No Woman Born' (1944)</p> <p>Science fiction exploring alienness and mutation</p> <p>Supplementary reading: Isaac Asimov, 'Nightfall' (1941), Judith Merrill, 'That Only a Mother' (1948)</p> <p>Supplementary viewing: Ishiro Honda, <i>Godzilla</i> (1954)</p>
	<p>Unit 04: New Wave and Reaction, 1963-1983</p> <p>Text: Philip K. Dick, 'We Can Remember It for You Wholesale' (1966)</p> <p>Humanity and human-machine division, beginnings of artificial intelligence, gender and its social implications in science fiction</p> <p>Supplementary reading: James Tiptree Jr., 'The Girl Who was Plugged In' (1974)</p> <p>Supplementary viewing: Ridley Scott, <i>Blade Runner</i> (1982)</p>
	<p>Unit 05: Cyberpunk, 1984 and Onwards</p> <p>Text: William Gibson, 'Johnny Mnemonic' (<i>Burning Chrome</i>, 1986)</p> <p>Exploring artificial intelligence, alternate self, and alternate reality</p> <p>Supplementary reading: Douglas Adams, 'Young Zaphod Plays it Safe' (1986)</p> <p>Supplementary viewing: Barry Sonnenfeld, <i>Men in Black</i> (1997), Mamoru Oshii, <i>The Ghost in the Shell</i> (1995)</p>
	<p>Unit 06: Contemporary Trends</p> <p>Text: Manjula Padmanabhan, 'Flexi-time' (2019)</p> <p>Science fiction in contemporary times, Indian science fiction, sf as series</p> <p>Supplementary reading: Ruhan Zhao, 'My Left Hand' (2017)</p> <p>Supplementary viewing: Charlie Brooker, <i>Black Mirror</i> (2016-present), Choi Hangyong, <i>The Silent Sea</i> (2021), Chris Renaud & Pierre Coffin, <i>Despicable Me</i> (2010)</p>

Text Books:

- Jules Verne, *Selected Short Stories*, Maple Press, 2019
- E. M. Forster, *The Eternal Moment & Other Stories*, Mariner Books, 1970
- Philip K. Dick, *The Short Story Collection*, Createspace Independent Publishers, 2014
- William Gibson, *Burning Chrome*, Gollancz Publishers, 2017
- Tarun Saint & Manjula Padmanabhan eds. *The Gollancz Book of South Asian Science Fiction* vol. 1, Hachette India, 2019
- Lucas K. Law & Derwin Mak eds. *Where the Stars Rise: Asian Science Fiction & Fantasy*, Laksa Media Groups Inc., 2017

Reference Books:

1. Adam Roberts, *The History of Science Fiction*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2nd edition, 2016
2. Brian Aldiss & David Wingrove, *Trillion Year Spree*, Gollancz, 1986
3. Carl Freedman, *Critical Theory and Science Fiction*, Wesleyan University Press, 2000
4. Darko Suvin, *Metamorphoses of Science Fiction*, Peter Lang AG, updated edition, 2016
5. Edward James & Sarah Mendlesohn, *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*, Cambridge University Press, 1st edition, 2003