

**University of Calgary  
Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**FILM 305.15 L01**

**TOPIC IN GENRE**

**International Science Fiction Since 1965**

**Winter 2015**

**Block Week Jan. 05-09, 2015**

**MTWRF 9:00-17:00**

**Instructor:** Prof. George Melnyk  
**Office:** SS 218  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-7562  
**E-Mail:** gmelnyk@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** MTWRF 8:30-9:00 and 17:00-17:30

**Course Description**

This course is an examination of the science fiction film genre as it has developed internationally over the past 45 years. Because this genre has been a staple of cinema for over a century, it has developed a number of conventions. These conventions are challenged by those of other genres, which are integrated into science fiction narratives. International science fiction is also framed by distinct cultural grammars that have been developed by national cinemas. Likewise, the historical span of the genre from 1965 to 2014 involves the evolution of technical innovation, geopolitical realities, and socio-economic developments. The films that will be studied are British, American, Canadian, Japanese, Russian, South African, and Korean.

**Additional Information**

There is a pre-session REQUIRED READING of J.P. Telotte, *Science Fiction Film* (2001) which is available online as a U of C Library INTERNET book.

**Objectives of the Course**

- To guide students to an understanding of the genre;
- To introduce students to the national diversity of the genre;
- To develop a cultural studies approach to the genre;
- To relate science fiction cinema to other cinematic and literary genres.

## **Textbooks and Readings**

J.P. Telotte, *Science Fiction Film* (2001) PN 1995.9 S6 INTERNET

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

Laptop computers and other electronic devices are allowed in the class for making notes only. These devices are not to be used for non-academic and non-course-related purposes during the lectures and labs. If, in the judgment of the instructor, the use of any device is determined to be distracting to the class, the device will have to be turned off.

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

### **1. Textbook Assessment** (Due at 9 a.m. in class on Monday, January 5, 2015)

This is a 600-800 word report in which you assess the book, *Science Fiction Film* in the following three areas: 1) what I learned about SF film that I didn't know before; 2) which film discussed in the book was the most interesting to me and why; 3) what did the author get wrong about SF film in general as far as you are concerned. Each area is worth 5% of your final grade for a total of **15%**.

### **2. In-class Test** (Thursday, January 8, 2015, 16:00-17:00)

This is a closed-book test that will consist of three questions that will be answered in short-essay form. The test questions will refer to the content of the course up to the time of the test, which includes the textbook, the assigned daily readings, the films screened, and the instructor's lectures and class discussion. Each question will be worth 10% of your final grade for a total of **30%**.

### **3. Research Paper** (Due January 16, 2015 at 16:00 ( 4 p.m.) in SS 218)

A research paper of 2000-2500 words will be required on ONE of the following three topics: 1) a film screened in the course, 2) a director discussed in the course, 3) major science fiction films from one national cinema in the period between 1965 to 2014. The research paper will be worth **55%** of the final grade.

## **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO**

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

**Submission of Assignments:** Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

### Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late except when documentation of a medical emergency or similar event is provided. ANY ASSIGNMENTS RECEIVED AFTER 9.00 A.M ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015 WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO unless an extension has been granted by the instructor.

### Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

### Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### Grading System & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%

<b>3.00</b>	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	<b>B</b>	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
<b>2.70</b>		<b>B-</b>	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
<b>2.30</b>		<b>C+</b>	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
<b>2.00</b>	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	<b>C</b>	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
<b>1.70</b>		<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>		<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	00 - 49.99%	0%

### Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

### Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

## Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:picarts@ucalgary.ca">picarts@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html">http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	<b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

### Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE listing lecture and film screening times, required daily readings, due dates for assignments and the requirements for each assignment will be emailed to students on either December 15, 2014 or soon thereafter.