

DC270 Syllabus Winter Intercession 2017

Monday thru Thursday 5pm-9pm in CDM 708, 11.27-11.30, 12.4-12.7

Syllabus is subject to change.

Summary:

Study in cinema focusing on a specific genre each quarter such as: Science Fiction, Film Noir, Comedy, Action-Adventure, Nonfiction, etc. The topic will be Blade Runner: Science Fiction and what it means to be human. Screenings of films leading to Blade Runner and films after Blade Runner will be the central content of this course.

Late Assignments:

Please see me if you are having difficulties submitting assignments.

Texts:

No text. Readings are available on D2L.

Office Hours:

Wednesday 8:00am to 11:00am via Skype. Skype ID: robertmsteel
Office Hours are available by appointment. Other times are available also.

Class 1, 11.27

Syllabus and D2L. Please note, this syllabus is subject to change.

Introduction: Why Blade Runner?

Screening: Blade Runner-Designing the Future (:27), Blade Runner-Visual Effects (:29), Blade Runner (Director's Final Cut) (1:57)

Discussion: Blade Runner

Class 2, 11.28

Introduction: The philosophical implications of humanity in science fiction

Screening: Blade Runner-Production Begins (:29), Blade Runner-Post (:23), Logan's Run (1:58)

Discussion: The rules of the game and how they define who we are.

Class 3, 11.29

Introduction: Control-the prescience of Logan's Run and THX1138

Screening: Facebook AI Robots Shut Down (2:38), Passing the Turing Test (4:45) Twilight Zone: Eye of the Beholder (:26), THX 1138 (1:28)

Discussion: What are the limits of control?

Class 4, 11.30

Introduction: Robots and how they define who we are or who we should be

Screening: Robot shorts (Similo-22:45, The Decelerators-4:51, Changing Batteries-5:02, The Naturalist-11:58, Robbie-8:45), Westworld (1:28).

Discussion: How are robots used as narrative devices?

Homework Due 12.4

Viewing (Completed by 12.4): Metropolis. Shorts: **Zari, The Trail's End, Future Hero, Flesh Computer, Wire Cutters.** Optional viewing: **2001-A Space Odyssey.**

Reading (Due 12.4): [Blade Runner-What it Means to be Human in a Cybernetic State](#), [Did Google Hire Ray Kurzweil to Produce Skynet?](#), [Meditations on Blade Runner](#), [Why We Love Androids on TV](#), [Characters/Blade Runner](#), [Dystopian Movie Tropes/Everything You Will Find In Them](#), [What to Think About Machines That Think](#), [Apple, Google and the Chase for Tech that can't be Reverse-Engineered](#), [Ban on Killer Robots Urgently Needed, say Scientists](#), [Elon Musk-Inventor's Plans for Outer Space, Cars, Finding Love](#), [Google's AI Expert Believes Humans and AI will Merge before 2030](#), [Looking into the Crystal Ball-22 Predictions for 2018](#), [Scientists say the Future for Earth is even more Bleak than Originally Thought](#), [The Technological Singularity and AI.](#)

Discussion Forum #1 (Due 12.4): In 50-75 words, how does the human condition evidence itself in non-humans?

Discussion Forum #2 (Due 12.6): In 50-75 words, how does the work screened in this class so far inspire you and spark your creativity?

Image (video or audio) share (Due 12.4): Choose one image or one piece of music that conveys your impressions of work viewed during Week 1. Defend your choice in 250 words or less (paper or audio recording).

Class 5, 12.4

Introduction: Fate, Determinism, and Free Will

Screening: Ex Machina (1:48), Gattaca (1:45)

Discussion: How does technology affect Free Will?

Class 6, 12.5

Lecture: The Singularity and Ray Kurzweil

Screening: Transcendent Man (1:24), Robocop (1:44)

Class 7, 12.6

Image Share Screenings

Introduction: Cyberpunk

Screening: Dark City (1:58)

Class 8, 12.7

Introduction: What does science fiction allow us to do as storytellers?

Screening: Blade Runner, Original Theatrical Cut, Beginning and Ending (:42), Never Let Me Go (1:44)

Discussion: Wrap up

Homework due 12.28 by noon

Viewing: Moon, Rise of the Robots and Tron Legacy

Discussion Forum #3: In 50-75 words, how is identity constructed in the human-machine integration?

Discussion Forum #4: In 50-75 words, do you fear artificial intelligence? Why?

Creative project: This project is designed to be a creative response to the films, conversations and readings from this class.

Examples include:

Create a short (2-3 minute) science fiction film using found footage.

or

Create video or audio documentary (4-7 minute) on science fiction cinema, artificial intelligence, machine learning or other relevant topics.

or

Create a collage of 30-40 images meaningful to the films and topics presented in the class (Tumblr, Word Press, or any gallery software of your choice, delivered as a pdf) with a 2-page written defense of your choices.

or

Create a PowerPoint/Keynote presentation (12-15 pages, delivered as a pdf) on your response to "What is the future of humanity"?

or

Any other ideas are welcome. No screenplays. Please check with me for approval.

Grading:

Discussion Forum (Each Forum 10 points. 40 points total):

1 50-75-word posting and 3 meaningful responses to other postings, 10 points

1 50-75-word posting and 2 meaningful responses to other postings, 7 points

1 50-75-word posting and 1 meaningful response to other postings, 4 points

1 50-75-word posting, 2 points

Image Share (20 points total):

20 points

Creative Project (40 points total):

40 points

A 93-100 Excellent work A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 Above satisfactory work B- 80-82 C+ 77-79 C 73-76 Satisfactory/good work C- 70-72 D+ 67-69 D 63-66 Unsatisfactory work D- 60-62 F 59-61 Substantially unsatisfactory work

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for participation drops 1 point after any unexcused absence. Four absences for any reason, whether excused or not, will constitute failure for the course.

Attitude

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Cell Phones/On Call

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in [Campus Connect](#).

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the [University Academic Calendar](#). Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

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