

DC270 Syllabus Winter Intercession 2013

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 5:30-9:15pm in 14EAS, 801

Syllabus is subject to change.

WEEK 1: The Path to Blade Runner: The Examination of Humanity in Science Fiction Cinema before Blade Runner

Class 1, 12.2

Syllabus and D2L

Introduction: What does it mean to be human? Why Blade Runner?

Screening: On the Edge of Blade Runner (:53), Blade Runner (Director's Final Cut) (1:57)

Class 2, 12.3

Discussion: Let's talk about that unicorn.

Introduction: The philosophical implications of humanity in science fiction

Screening: Star Trek: The Changeling (:50), Logan's Run (1:58)

Class 3, 12.4

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

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

Screening: Twilight Zone: Eye of the Beholder (:26), Future Shock (:42), THX1138 (1:28)

Homework

Reading: Meditations on Blade Runner, Blade Runner-What it Means to be Human in a Cybernetic State, Why We Love Androids on TV, Did Google Hire Ray Kurzweil to Produce Skynet?

Discussion board: Science fiction allows us to view ourselves in a different way. In 25-50 words, how does the human condition evidence itself in non-humans?

Cellphone/Webcam Self-Interview (1-2 minutes): What are your initial thoughts on the works screened this week?

Image (video or audio) share: Choose one image or one piece of music that conveys your impressions of work viewed during Week 1. Defend your choice in 50 words or less (paper or audio recording).

WEEK 2: Robots

Class 4, 12.9 (Guest lecturer)

Introduction: Fate, Determinism, and Free Will In Battlestar Galactica

Screening: Battlestar Galactica Episodes

Discussion: Cylons

Class 5, 12.10

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

Screening: How Robots Will Change the World (:40), Westworld (1:28), robot shorts (R'ha-6:30, AMP-8:11, Changing Batteries-5:02, BlinkyTM-12:50, Abe-8:22)

Class 6, 12.11

Cellphone/Webcam Self-Interview and Image Share Screenings.

Introduction: The Singularity and Ray Kurzweil

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

Homework

Reading: The Cyborg Manifesto

Discussion board: In 25-50 words, how is identity constructed in the human-machine integration?

Cellphone/Webcam Self-Interview (1-2 minutes): Is the Singularity near? Why?

Image (video or audio) share: Choose one image or one piece of music that conveys your impressions of work viewed during Week 2. Defend your choice in 50 words or less (paper or audio recording).

WEEK 3: Blade Runner and its Influence

Class 7, 12.16

Introduction: Cyberpunk

Screening: Dark City (1:58), Ghost in the Shell Part 1 (:45)

Class 8, 12.17

Presentation: TBA

Screening: Ghost in the Shell Part 2 (:45), Gattaca (1:45)

Class 9, 12.18

Cellphone/Webcam Self-Interview and Image Share Screenings

Screening: Never Let Me Go (1:44)

Homework

Creative project (Due January 3rd, 2014): This project is designed to be a creative response to the films, conversations and readings from this class.

Examples include:

Edit a short (2-3 minute) robot-centric science fiction film using found footage.

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 (10-12 pages, delivered as a pdf) on your response to "What does it mean to be human"?

or

Write an 8-10 page screenplay with a robot as the protagonist.

or

Any other ideas are welcome. Please check with me for approval.

Summary:

Advanced 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.

Course Objectives:

By the end of DC270, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and discuss the meaning of humanity in Science Fiction Cinema.
2. Synthesize knowledge gained from the course and create artistic output.
3. Understand the cinematic narrative from a philosophical point of view.
4. View several films and compare via semiotics.
5. Understand current trends in cyborg technologies.

Late Assignments:

Please see me if you are having difficulties submitting assignments.

Texts:

No text. Readings will be available on D2L.

Grading:**Discussion Board (20 points total):**

- 1 25-50-word posting and 3 meaningful responses to other postings, 10 points
- 1 25-50-word posting and 2 meaningful responses to other postings, 7 points
- 1 25-50-word posting and 1 meaningful response to other postings, 4 points
- 1 25-50-word posting, 2 points

Cell Phone/Webcam Self Interview (20 points total):

10 points each

Image Share (20 points total):

10 points each

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- 80-82C+ 77-79 C 73-76 Satisfactory/good work C- 70-72D+ 67-69 D 63-66 Unsatisfactory work D- 60-62F 59-61 Substantially unsatisfactory work

School policies:

Online Instructor Evaluation

Course and instructor evaluations are critical for maintaining and improving course quality. To make evaluations as meaningful as possible, we need 100% student participation. Therefore, participation in the School's web-based academic administration initiative during the eighth and ninth Class of this course is a requirement of this course. Failure to participate in this process will result in a grade of incomplete for the course. This incomplete will be automatically removed within seven Class after the end of the course and replaced by the grade you would have received if you had fulfilled this requirement.

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the academic integrity policy

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment, which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two Classes before the final, and approved by the Dean of the School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

