

Dallas High School

Home of the Dragons



Science Fiction Literature 2022-2023

Instructor: Erika Fitzyounger

Telephone: (503) 623-8336 x2126

Email: erika.fitzyounger@dsd2.org

Office Hours: ALIE Wednesday and Thursday (2:40-3:30pm)

Course Description:

This course explores the definition of science fiction by reading and experiencing a wide variety of stories, books, and films that fit into the genre. It is a genre study course that will be discussion based with writing projects to analyze the literature we have covered.

Essential Questions:

- How does science fiction differ from fantasy?
- How does the time and place of the writing of a work of science fiction impact the story being told?
- How should humans interact with an alien species?
- How can we define the genre of science fiction?

Class Texts:

The majority of our reading will be done from *The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction*. We will also be reading the novel *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. We will also watch a few films or episodes of various science fiction tv shows (including Star Trek, Star Wars, Frankenstein, Black Mirror, Outer Limits, etc).

Most of these “texts”, including the movies and shows, are age appropriate for teenagers. However, a few of them include mature language (profanity; no overtly sexual content; some innuendo). A few such examples are some of the Black Mirror episodes (“Nosedive” and “USS Callister” and “Rachel, Jack, and Ashley, Too”). These episodes are the cleanest of the series and also extremely important to include while exploring the genre of science fiction. They explore more recent technologies and ideas that could be in our near future, including the use of social media in controlling our lives, as well as copying the human consciousness.

If you, the parent/guardian, object to your student watching these episodes because of the language use and innuendo that may appear, please include a note at the bottom of the syllabus when you return it with your signature. If you object, students will read and watch alternate texts those days. Lack of objection on said syllabus will result in your student fully participating and watching the episodes with us in class.

Standards to Be Assessed:

11-12.RL.1: Analyze what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain; cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis.

11-12.RL.5: Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

11-12.RL.9: Demonstrate knowledge of a range of texts within the same time periods, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics from multiple perspectives.

11-12.W.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

11-12.W.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

11-12.SL.1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

Grading and Assessment:

The following grading scales will be used to calculate a student’s course grades and grade point average:

Course Grades will be calculated using the following scale:	Grade Point Averages (GPAs) will be calculated using the following scale:	GPAs for Advanced Placement courses will be
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		calculated using the following scale:
A 90-100%	A (4.0)	A (5.0)
B 80-89%	B (3.0)	B (4.0)
C 70-79%	C (2.0)	C (3.0)
D 60-69%	D (1.0)	D (2.0)
F 0-59%	F (0)	F (0)

Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration of Dallas High School believe that honesty and integrity are personal attributes worth nurturing in our students. Because we value the educational and skill development opportunities provided by classroom assignments, research projects, tests, and credit recovery, we expect students to express academic integrity by doing their own work and properly documenting information gathered from other sources. Congruous with this belief is our resolve to handle those who violate the principles of academic integrity with stringent consequences as outlined in the [K-12 Code of Conduct](#).

Student Behavior and Expectations:

Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior in the classroom and contribute to a safe, positive, caring learning environment by cooperating; doing their best to achieve academic excellence; respecting themselves, others, and the environment; and conducting themselves in a safe manner at all times. Clearly defined behavioral expectations are consistent school-wide through the Dragon **PRIDE** acronym. We strive to teach our students to take **PRIDE** in themselves and the school by demonstrating: **Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Determination,** and **Empathy** at all times. For more information, please see the [Student/Parent Handbook](#).

Student Electronic Devices at Dallas High School:

Students are allowed to possess personal electronic devices at school and at school-sponsored activities provided such devices are not used in any manner that may disrupt the learning environment, school-sponsored activities or violate Board policies, administrative regulations,

school or classroom rules, or state and federal laws. Cell phone usage is **only** permitted during scheduled passing periods and lunch times. Students are not allowed to be on their phones in the hallways and other common areas during class time and cell phone usage in the bathrooms and locker rooms is prohibited **at all times**. Students must use a Chromebook or laptop to complete and submit coursework. Cell phones cannot be used for this purpose and can only be used during class time with express advance permission from the teacher.

Late and Missing Work Policy

If you are absent, you are responsible for the reading and assignments you missed in class. Most reading and assignments will be completed in class, unless we have long weekends, in which case a few chapters from our novel will be assigned. You will have 2 weeks from the due date of an assignment to complete it. After that, the assignment will be locked and not accepted/be unable to turn in. Exceptions will only be made for extenuating circumstances.

Diversity

Dallas School District #2 recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. It is the policy for the Dallas School District #2 Board of Education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation in any educational programs, activities or employment.

Gender

Dallas High School will be proactive in creating a school culture that respects and values all students and fosters understanding of gender identity within the school community. Such guidelines are intended to ensure a safe learning environment free of discrimination and harassment, and to promote the educational and social integration of transgender students. They do not anticipate every situation that may occur and the needs of each student will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Parents: Please keep the rest of the syllabus. By signing this form, you acknowledge that you have read and fully understood the expectations, rules, and standards associated with this course. If you have questions, please call 503-623-8336 or email using the email address provided in this document. This page is due back by Friday, September 17th to your student's teacher.

Parent Name:

Parent Signature:

Parent email Address:

Parent Phone:

Student Name:

Student Signature: