Grande Prairie Regional College
Science Fiction and Fantasy
English 3990
Winter 2009

Instructor: Dr.Kazem Mashkournia
Office:B301
Phone: 539-2992
Office hours: Monday 9:00:00-11:00
                Or by appointment

Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 to 12:50
Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English

Course Description

In this course we will study a selection of major works in
speculative fiction published from 1954 to 1999 and intended for
a mass audience. A large part of the course will be on different
forms of post-WW2, mostly North American, speculative fiction.

Course Objectives
We will explore how science fiction reacts to the problems of
our time, and how this genre addresses our century's hopes for a
world better than our own. In this course, we will examine
speculative fiction as a literary forum both for optimists who
are convinced that the lot of humanity can be improved and also
for those pessimists who disagree.

Required Text:

J.R.R. Tolkien	The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring	(1954)
Frank Herbert	Dune	(1965)
Joanna Russ	The Female Man	(1975)
Douglas Adams	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	(1979)
Orson Scott Card	Ender's Game	(1984)
William Gibson	Neuromancer	(1984)
Octavia Butler	Parable of the Sower	(1994)

Term Work
The First Essay	25%
The Second Essay	25%

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Presentation and class participation        20%
Final Exam                                   30%
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Guideline for percentage conversion

Alpha Grade		Percentage Conversion
A+	4.0	95-100
A	4.0	90- 94
A-	3.7	85-89
B+	3.3	80-84
B	3.0	75-79
B-	2.7	70-74
C+	2.3	67-69
C	2.0	64-66
C-	1.7	60-63
D+	1.3	55-59
D	1.0	50-54

Tentative Schedule

Jan.   06   Introduction

Jan.   08   The Lord of the Rings

Jan.   13,15   The Lord of the Rings

Jan   20,22   The Lord of the Rings

Jan   27,29   Dune

Feb.   03,05   Dune

Feb.   10,12   The Female Man   **(FIRST ESSAY DUE)**

Feb.   24,26   The Female Man

March 03,05   Ender's Game

March 10,12   Ender's Game

March 17,19   Parable of the Sower **(SECOND ESSAY DUE)**

March 24,26   Parable of the Sower

March.31,April 03 Neuromancer

April 02,07,09   The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy