

English Literature III: More Recent Period (A001792)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Kavanagh, Ciarán

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Science Fiction, genre theory, contemporary literature, reader studies, fan studies

Position of the course

Course Title: Discovering Science Fiction

This course provides the opportunity to study 20th century American and British science fiction, and its critical and discursive cultures, including science fiction studies and science fiction fandom.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the third year of the bachelor programme in English, students are expected to further consolidate a C1 level of proficiency ("Expert"/"Effective operational" proficiency).

Exchange students can enrol for this course, provided they meet the requirements stipulated in this document. No knowledge of Dutch is required for this course.

Contents

This course aims to provide a historical survey of 20th century British and American science fiction, paying particular attention to the growth and development of the genre, its critical contexts, and its surrounding discursive cultures. The idea of genre itself will be examined in depth, and thus the critical reach of the course exceeds the confines of science fiction. Students will also engage with digital archives of science fiction periodicals and fanzines. This course focuses on novels, short stories, and periodicals.

Initial competences

To have completed "English Literature I" and "English Literature II" or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means. To master English at an initial C1 level (i.e. C1.1, First stage of "Expert"/"Effective operational" proficiency).

Some knowledge of science fiction literature will help, but is not necessary for enrolment.

Final competences

- 1 General knowledge of genre studies and specific knowledge of science fiction's history as a genre, from its roots in the utopian tradition, its growth in the pulp magazines, its flourishing into various subgenres, to the bloom of its current omnipresence.
- 2 The ability to engage with SF's critical contexts, particularly theories of estrangement, in the reading of diverse SF texts.
- 3 An introduction to reader-oriented analyses, including reader-response and fan studies.

4 The enhancement of analytical skills, including those of close reading, the use of contextual scholarship, and the formation of a distinct academic point-of-view.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Individual sessions will combine lecture and seminar methods, with opportunities for students to participate in class discussions. Each session will situate the assigned texts in their relevant literary and cultural contexts.

A small number of classes may be taught online or through alternative means, for example, when working with digital archives.

Study material

None

References

Secondary literature will be made available at the start of the course via Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

Possibility of feedback and counselling on an individual basis

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Active participation in classroom discussion is expected and may count towards the assessment of the in-class assignment.

Students will have an option between two or more short assignments based around contributions to in-class discussions, for example, the marking-up of a critical article for the class, or a short wiki-style research topic.

Non-periodic evaluation: essay (between 2000 and 2500 words, bibliography excluded)

Calculation of the examination mark

The short assignment counts towards 30% of the final mark

The essay counts towards 70% of the final mark

Facilities for Working Students

1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance

2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3 Feedback can be given by email or during office hours