COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: Science Fiction: ENGL 1130
CREDITS: 3 (3 Lec / 0 Lab)
PREREQUISITES: ENGL 1060: Freshman Composition

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Science Fiction provides students an opportunity to think critically and creatively about the values, ethics and choices that shape the future. Students evaluate works by leading science fiction writers and examine the major patterns and trends in the genre. Science fiction is a genre that has grown out of the rapid change brought about by modern technology, and in this course students discover a mythology that explains who we are, what possible futures await, and humankind's ethical and civic responsibility for shaping change rather than blindly accepting it.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Science fiction as a mythology
2. Definition of science fiction
3. Purpose of science fiction
4. Elements of fiction
   A. Point-of-view
   B. Characterization
   C. Setting
   D. Plot
   E. Symbols and irony
   F. Theme
5. Extrapolation of present trends
6. Mythical element: ambiguity - questions that remain
   A. The remarkable adventure
   B. Inner and outer adventures
   C. Hero
   D. Trials and goal
   E. Mythical element: resolution - blessing or curse?
7. Aliens
   A. Definition
   B. Types of encounters
   C. Response to aliens
   D. Mythical element: implications of responses to the "other"
8. The scientists and their inventions
   A. Types of scientists
   B. Relationship to invention
   C. Mythical element: implications of moral stances
9. The machine and the robot
   A. Definition
   B. Level of human control
C. Mythical element: the expendability of humanity

10. More than human
   A. Definition of human/android/cyborg
   B. Possibilities in bioengineering
   C. Effects on economy and environment
   D. Consequence for social and political order
   E. Mythical element: changing the essence of humanity

11. The city: utopias and dystopias
   A. Definitions
   B. Social and political structures
      1. Alienation vs. trust
      2. Conformity vs. nonconformity
      3. Control vs. individual freedom
   C. Problem - solving
      1. Rebellion vs. communication
      2. Aggression vs. empathy
   D. Mythical element: levels of moral development and civic responsibility

12. Apocalypse
   A. Dual nature
      1. Destruction
      2. Revelation
   B. Spiritual elements
   C. Mythical elements: apocalypse - destruction or genesis

13. Alternative worlds
   A. Roles and survival
   B. Values and social order
   C. Space/time variables
   D. Political structure
   E. Mythical element: interconnectedness of man and technology

**COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will identify the relationship between the growth of modern science and technology and the development of the science fiction genre.
2. Students will define the basic characteristics of science fiction as a mythology and illustrate their significance in specific works.
3. Students will synthesize elements in specific works to identify the theme and assess the ethical implications of the hero’s resolution or reward.
4. Students will define the pattern of a utopia/dystopia and identify each in specific works.
5. Students will describe the characters and analyze their actions in terms of their interconnectedness to technology.
6. Students will synthesize elements to determine the theme and contrast and evaluate possible futures in technological, environmental, and human terms.
7. Students will associate trends in past and present ethical and civic responsibility with themes in the genre and assess these themes as a mirror of human behavior.
8. Students will explore a wide variety of works, and sub-genres, in order to gain a
a deeper appreciation of science fiction as a unique genre with its own literary tradition, and encourage further exploration.

**MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:**
The Humanities and Fine Arts, Area C (Literature)
Ethical and Civic Responsibility

**HCC COMPETENCIES MET:**
Communicating Clearly & Effectively

**STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:**
Learning and growth as a student are best achieved through self-discovery, class interaction, debate, and cooperative learning. In addition, students are expected to participate in activities and discussions, listen to and follow directions, complete assignments on time, request assistance when needed, work collaboratively, and contribute to a productive learning environment.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** None

AASC APPROVAL DATE: February 21, 2018
REVIEW DATE: February 2023