

LMC 3214 Syllabus

Science Fiction, Section A, 3 credit hours

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Yaszek, Regent's Professor

Email: lisa.yaszek@gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

This class will introduce you to the literary and cultural history of Anglophone and especially American science fiction (SF). We will examine how SF artists of the past two centuries have developed a generic "grammar" to speculate about the future of science, technology, and society. We will also examine how this grammar changes over time.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Use discipline-specific concepts, terminology, and analytic methods of science fiction studies to analyze speculative texts
- Recognize how science fiction both responds to and influences scientific and cultural discourses
- Gather and convey information about science fiction accurately using a range of media
- Demonstrate how science fiction can reveal cultural biases and expectations

Required Course Materials

- Lisa Yaszek, *The History of Science Fiction Lecture Series* (free on YouTube)
- Jason Haslam, ed. *The Broadview Anthology of Science Fiction* (purchase)
- Fred M. Wilcox, dir. *Forbidden Planet* (1956) (rent)
- Joseph Pevney, dir. *Star Trek, "City on the Edge of Forever"* (1967) (rent)

Grading Policy

Assignments

- Project 1 — 30%
- Project 2 — 30%

- Project 3 — 30%
- Participation — 10%

Grading Scale (1000 points total)

A: 1000–900

B: 899–800

C: 799–700

D: 699–650

F: 649–0

Detailed grading criteria are posted on Canvas. Because students have multiple opportunities for feedback before deadlines, grades are final and will not be debated after submission.

Description of Graded Components

You will complete three projects for this class. You may either write analytic papers in which you use the professional terminology of science fiction studies, as introduced by Professor Yaszek in her video lectures to analyze the themes and techniques used by artists to create their science fiction texts, or you may opt to do creative projects, in which you make science fiction objects that embody the themes and techniques of science fiction as presented in the professor's video lectures and in assigned class texts.

Course Policies

Participation

Participation reflects your engagement with our class community. This includes:

- Completing readings and coming prepared
- Participating through speaking or active listening
- Communicating respectfully with classmates and the instructor
- Following syllabus, assignment, AI, and Honor Code policies
- Respecting the disciplinary standards of humanities scholarship

Disruptive behavior, chronic unpreparedness, late work without communication, or policy violations will negatively affect your participation grade.

Attendance

- Regular attendance is expected.
- Students may miss **up to three classes without penalty**
- Beginning with the fourth unexcused absence, the final grade is reduced by **50 points per absence**
- Missing six or more classes may result in failure of the course
- Attendance is recorded via a sign-in sheet. Late arrivals must provide class notes to receive attendance credit.

- Documented absences for institute-approved activities or medical/family emergencies will not count against you if documentation is provided within one week.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's [Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#). Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Generative AI Usage Policy

Limited AI use is permitted for:

- Brainstorming ideas
- Creating imagery
- Proofreading or grammar checks
- Thesaurus/dictionary/translation support

AI **may not** be used to generate drafts, sentences, structure, research, or citations.

All AI use must be **approved in writing at least 48 hours before the due date**.

If you use AI in your project, you must provide an AI Disclosure Document with your assignment. Undisclosed or inappropriate use of AI will be treated as plagiarism and result in a zero. See the following section for more detail.

Your required AI Disclosure Document must include the following:

- An opening statement: “I used AI for the following components of the writing process: [list all components].”
- A two-paragraph explanation of how you used AI in tandem with class materials to complete specific aspects of your assignment, and how doing this allowed you to better demonstrate your familiarity with class materials.
- A copy of the transcript for your AI session(s) on your project.

Extensions & Late Work

- Assignments must be submitted **on time** to receive full credit
- Extension requests must be emailed to the professor **24 hours** before the due date
- Students must include a **proposed new due date** in their extension requests
- Late work without an approved extension loses **one participation point per day late**
- On-time work will be returned within two weeks
- Late work will be graded as time permits before the end of the semester

Campus Resources for Students

Student Support & Resources

Georgia Tech offers extensive support services, including:

- [The Office of Disability Services](#) for accommodations
- [The Naugle Communication Center](#) (Comm Lab) for writing and project support
- [The GT Center for Mental Health Care](#) for walk in and 24/7 on call services
- [The Wellness Empowerment Center](#) for health and well-being educational programs
- [STAR Services](#) for temporary assistance with food, housing, or finances
- [Over 500 Student Organizations](#) for connection with like-minded people

Academic Support

Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack.

To explore what options work best for you, please [visit online](#), email at tutoring@gatech.edu, or visit in person at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.