

Short-Form Science Fiction

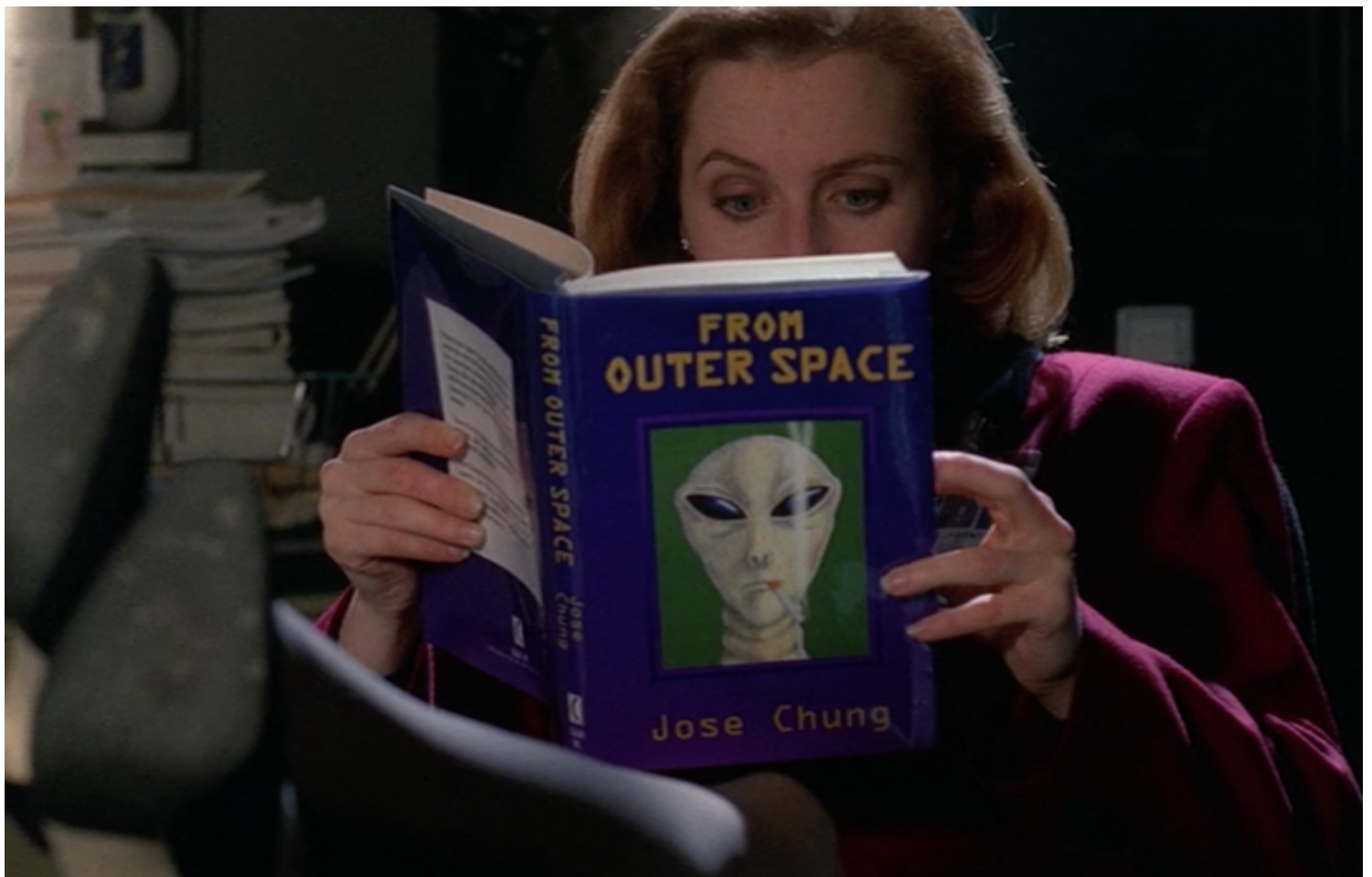
HUMN 4472 Studies in Culture | Spring 2018



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This online section of HUMN 4472 Studies in Culture will examine short-form science fiction in literature, television, and short film.



his course will examine short-form science fiction through short stories, television episodes, and short films. The short story has been a mainstay in literature for centuries, but

██████████ ██████████ arguably no other genre has benefited from this form than science fiction. We will consider the benefits of terse, episodic statements and what they say about the genre and storytelling in general.

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Fully Online

Before you go any further, please be aware that this section of HUMN 4472 is **fully online**. To understand the significance of this, read the following and consider carefully what it says. Only certain types of students excel in online courses. Are you one of them?

Considerations for Online Courses

So, you're thinking about taking an online course?
Read the following carefully before committing.

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Introduction

Welcome to HUMN 4472, Studies in Culture. The document you're reading is your syllabus. **Everything** you need for this class is on this page and linked off of it. Bookmark it now and return here if you get lost or confused, or you can always return to [LitMUSE](#).

Since this is an online section, I have tried to make the lessons and procedures as simple to follow and to understand as possible. That said, there is bound to be a bit of confusion, at least at first. Do your best to work through it by **carefully and completely reading this document** (and links). I promise, there is an answer to your question. If all else fails, you may [contact me](#), or ask a question on D2L. **Trust yourself** to follow directions and find the answers. Be careful and deliberate.

If you are uncomfortable making decisions, researching your own answers, and working on your own, you may be more comfortable in a traditional, face-to-face section.

This course might be unlike any college course you have ever taken. It is designed to let you—the students—**discover and create your own knowledge** using the powerful digital devices and platforms we all have access to. I'm assuming, since you're taking this class online, that you are comfortable with working by yourself, are confident in your ability to take risks, do not need the constant reassurance of an authority figure, and have a basic Internet literacy. You will learn more about my approach shortly. Most of the online components will take place via D2L.

For a head start on how to approach all work in this course, see "How to Do Well in My Class" and "Research & Response."

Again, read this document through carefully before beginning. You might want to **take notes** as you go, jotting down questions you have. I bet they are answered by the time you're ready to begin the first lesson.

Instructor Information

- Dr. Gerald R. Lucas | [@drgrlucas](#) | [About](#)
- Office: CAS-117 (Macon campus)
- Office Hours: By appointment via IM on D2L; MW 9:30–11, 12:15–1 face-to-face and IM on D2L
- Email: gerald.lucas [at] mga [dot] edu

Since this is a fully online course, most office hours will be virtual via D2L. I try to make myself as available as much as possible during the first couple weeks of a semester, including evenings and weekends. If you need to chat with me, **direct message** me on D2L and we'll arrange a video conference, if necessary. Please do not expect a response on any social media after 5pm on weekdays or anytime during the weekend. I may be available, but I also need some down time. Thanks for your understanding.



Course Information

- **Credit:** 3 hours
- **Prerequisites:** At least a “C” in ENGL 1102/1102H
- **Description:** This course will explore a selected topic in cultural studies from a historical perspective and a comparative perspective. This is a writing intensive course.
- **Lecture/Lab Hours:** Three hours per week

Course Goals

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will be able to perform these goals. Students will

- Be familiar with various forms and styles of the disciplines within the humanities and have a basic knowledge of terms, techniques, and media within the arts, specifically science fiction;
- Understand and apply formalist or “new critical” analyses to interdisciplinary texts;

- Have a general knowledge of the influential and/or instigating effect of the visual arts, music, literature, sculpture, architecture, religion, and philosophy within the context of 20th-century Western civilization;
- Understand and illustrate the diversity in the various forms and styles of humanities in the 20th century;
- Apply critical thinking to the study of humanities, such that the student can see similarities and differences, make critical connections to the present, and understand the varying historical conditions which determine human values, particularly those that make up the modernist sensibility.

Required Texts

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, several PDFs and online articles will make up the class readings. Additional small fees might be incurred to purchase or to rent videos and texts for certain lessons. I will try to keep these expenses to a minimum. A subscription to a video streaming service, like Netflix, Hulu, YouTube Red, or Amazon Prime, might be worth your time for the semester. Most give free trial periods or discounts for students.

A note on videos: I do not provide videos as all that are assigned are available through various sources; I named a few above. That said, you are responsible for finding your own copies, and when one is not readily available in a service you are familiar with, you should go elsewhere and pay the rental fee. In all, this will likely not exceed the cost of a couple of month's fee on a streaming service. And since there is no required textbook for the course, your costs are very reasonable.

Technology Requirements

All students should have **their own newish computer** with a **high-speed Internet connection**. For minimum computer requirements, see those [Second Life outlines](#). A tablet for reading PDFs is convenient, but not a requirement of the course. Most, if not all, course activities will take place via D2L.



Policies & Procedures

Students are held accountable for knowing and practicing each of the course policies. Consider them like the law: the excuse “I didn’t know” will carry no weight. Pay particular attention to policies under Plagiarism.

Classroom Policies— LitMUSE

Course policies for all the classes of Dr. Lucas.
Course materials for the students of Gerald Luca...
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As a Middle Georgia State University student, it is your responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the MGA Student

Code of Conduct.

Students may withdraw from the course and earn a grade of “W” up to and including the midterm date: **March 07, 2018**. After midterm, students who withdraw will receive a grade of “WF.” Students are encouraged to read the [withdrawal policy](#) before dropping/withdrawing from class.



Requirements

Students' final grades are composed of **three requirements**:

1. research/response posts (RRP);
2. a research essay, and
3. participation.

Please read the assignment schedule at **the beginning of the semester**, so you have an understanding of what will be expected of

you and when it is due. Some posts will take longer to complete than others, like those on longer texts. **Work a bit every day**—*do not procrastinate*.

RRP

For all major texts covered in class, students will be asked to read and/or view them, research critical viewpoints on those texts, and compose their own unique response to those texts.

Students must complete all responses in order to successfully pass the course.

RRPs require composing a critical response on the primary text by building an argument about it supported by secondary texts. Each of RRP will be posted to the forum in D2L.

Academic Forum Posts

When posting to an online forum, like Slack, for class, you should always consider what's...

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Each lesson will follow the same procedure:

1. Read, view, or listen to the **primary texts**;
2. Research various **secondary texts** (criticism) about the primary texts;
3. Respond with an **original, critical observation** of your own that makes a focused argument that develops and supports it using the secondary texts you found in your research;
4. Comment on someone else's post.

Research Essay

Choose one of your favorite RRP and expand it by doing more research on the topic and increasing the scope of your argument and coverage. Follow the same procedure for the RRP above; make it a “super” post.

An outline and proposal for this essay will be submitted for approval (see schedule). Most will choose to submit this requirement as a standard research paper, but it may also be done online via a writing platform like Medium. If you choose the former, it must be formatted according to MLA standards, while the latter should use appropriate digital style.

Alternative: Edit the Wikipedia post of one of the stories or videos we watched for the semester. If you would like to pursue this option, contact me for details.

Note: This requirement will address the research learning initiative for IDS:

Students in the IDS cultural studies elective courses will submit outlines and bibliographies of their research papers to the instructor before the IDS cultural studies elective course research paper is due. They will receive instructor comments on these submissions to help them prepare and write more successful cultural studies research papers (SLO 2).

Participation

This grade will cover any other assignments not outlined above. It will also be based on interaction with others throughout the semester.



Procedure & Schedule

Since this section of HUMN 4472 is fully-online, it will follow a similar procedure for each week to keep us on-track. All work assigned below should be turned in before **11:30pm on Fridays**. Simply follow the directions for each day, but be sure to read ahead so you know what will be expected of you for the next week. Most will require careful planning and organization. Know what each requires and **do not procrastinate**. The majority of failures happen because students ignore this advice.

See D2L for more details and specific assignments.

01.08: Introduction

01.15: What Is Science Fiction?

01.22: Cheever / “La Jetée”

01.29: Gibson / *Doctor Who*

02.05: Dick / *X-Files*

02.12: Pratt / *Black Mirror*

02.19: Tiptree / *Deep Space Nine*

02.26: Sterling / *Star Trek*

03.05: Godwin / *Battlestar Galactica*

03.19: Liu / *Black Mirror*

03.26: Butler / Whitmore

04.02: Research Week

04.09: Proposal Due

04.16: Off Week

04.23: Paper Due

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Last updated on 5 Feb 2018 @ 07:46.

Please do not print this document; access it online as information may change.

LitMUSE | *Dr. Lucas*

