In this course we examine classic works of science fiction, from the origins of the genre in Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, to the “golden age” masters Clarke, Bradbury, Heinlein, and Asimov. In addition to these there are a host of other writers (Leigh Brackett, Poul Anderson, Theodore Sturgeon, Philip K. Dick, Andre Norton, Frederik Pohl, Keith Laumer, etc.) who produced great work and we will examine these, as well as prominent science fiction movies of the period. Class sessions will be a combination of lecture and participatory discussion. Meets Friday mornings from 9 to 12.

Weekly Schedule:


10. Apr. 15  Futurism and the perils of prediction: A guide to the next thousand years.

Required Texts:

The books listed below are in print, and are recommended for those who wish to obtain a hard copy. These texts have been reprinted dozens of times and any edition will do. There are also electronic versions available from a variety of sources, all of which work fine for this course.


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Additional works will be available in digital versions, including:

Isaac Asimov, *I, Robot* (1950)
Isaac Asimov, “Nightfall” (1941).
Suggested Movies:

Destination Moon (1950)
The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)
The Thing from Another World (1951)
When Worlds Collide (1951)
The War of the Worlds (1953)
The Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954)
This Island Earth (1955)
Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956)
Forbidden Planet (1956)
The Fly (1958)
Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959)

Recommended for further exploration:


Online:

John Cute, Encyclopedia of Science Fiction (SFE), an online reference for authors, titles, and themes in science fiction.

The Internet Speculative Fiction Database (ISFD) has thorough information on the convoluted publication history of science fiction stories.

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