**Science Fiction**

Ms. St. John

lstjohn@newpaltz.k12.ny.us

**Overview[[1]](#footnote-1):**

This semester we will explore imaginative literature through different texts: literature, film, television, and our own writing. We will discuss categories and attributes of science fiction literature. Throughout this time, we will read a variety of short stories, novels, and films. In addition, we will study several nonfiction companion pieces. We will choose, research, and create projects related to science fiction.

While we will study these pieces within their genre, their respective genres by no means confine them: philosophy, horror, humanity, and humor intertwine in most of the texts we study.

**Requirements:**

* Reading
* Class work and homework
* Reading and film quizzes
* Writing and special projects – You’ll complete a variety of writing assignments and class projects including critical-analytical, reflective film reviews, and creative pieces.
* Each student will bring in either one non-fiction science article, present a real-life scientific research video, or relevant subject on Ted Talks and present it to the class. This will help us brainstorm for class project ideas.
* Participation – This class works best for everyone if it’s dominated by student discussion of the material. Be sure to give your input and listen when others are speaking.

**Important note:**

Complete all of your work, and submit it on time. I try to work in lab time for you to complete the work, and most assignments are designed to be fun as well as enlightening. You will complete a variety of work: creative writing, critical writing, reading questions, quizzes and tests. There is a final exam in June.

Remember to check the website if you are absent, and check with me (there often are changes and it is up to you to discover them). You receive 5 points per day for on-time, productive participation. If you are absent you lose the points until you see me to make up the work.

Texts[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Whole Class:**

The Time Machine H.G. Wells

Ender’s Game Orson Scott Card

Oryx and Crake Margaret Atwood

Station Eleven Emily St. John Mandel

**Student Choice:**

Left Hand of Darkness Ursula K. Le Guin

Neuromancer William Gibson

Frankenstein Mary Shelley

Kindred Octavia Butler

The Martian Chronicles Ray Bradbury

I, Robot Isaac Asimov

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Science Fiction is an English elective. In addition to the required literature, we will analyze recurring themes and categories of literature and science fiction through film. We will view a number of films during class, and some of these movies are rated R. The following is a tentative list of films that I intend to show in class. We will ***not*** see all of these films; they are subject to availability and student choice.

Elysium Children of Men

Star Wars and/or The Empire Strikes Back Planet of the Apes (original)

Alien District 9

The Terminator Blade Runner

The Matrix Minority Report

A Scanner Darkly Twelve Monkeys  
Arrival City of Lost Children

Never Let Me Go

In order for your child to partake in these lessons, please sign in the space below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at lstjohn@newpaltz.k12.ny.us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa St. John

New Paltz High School English Teacher

**Detach here and return no later than Friday, February 8**

**I give my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, permission to view the films for the**

**Science Fiction curriculum.**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Most of this is stolen directly from Ms. Kamrass. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Subject to change based on student needs, teacher discretion, and snow days. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)