Syllabus

**SCIENCE FICTION AND (INTERNATIONAL) POLITICS - 58530**

Last update 18-08-2013

**HU Credits:** 4

**Degree/Cycle:** 1st degree (Bachelor)

**Responsible Department:** International Relations

**Academic year:** 0

**Semester:** Yearly

**Teaching Languages:** Hebrew

**Campus:** Mt. Scopus

**Course/Module Coordinator:** Dr Oded Lowenheim

**Coordinator Email:** oded.lowenheim@mail.huji.ac.il

**Coordinator Office Hours:** Monday 10:30-12:00

**Teaching Staff:**
Dr. Oded Lowenheim
Course/Module description:
The literary genre of science fiction (SF) can be used as a critical futuristic mirror. Since the 19th century, science fiction writers dealing with various aspects of social and political criticism are using fantasy literature, "speculative" and futuristic descriptions. This course introduces students to the field of science fiction by discussing several genres within it, such as utopia - dystopia, alternate history, encounters with alien civilizations, technology and politics, and more. We will explore the political aspects found in science fiction and ask how we can highlight and understand aspects and directions of contemporary "realistic" politics through these stories. To this end we will focus on several works of science fiction, both written and filmed. Well ponder about the power and influence of social and political criticism like this, and see how we can learn about different historical periods from science fiction written during them. The purpose of the course is not necessarily to provide an answer to the big question of "life, the universe, and everything" (this answer, of course, has been given elsewhere...), but to raise more specific questions for discussion, and present different approaches discussed in the context of science fiction literature.

Course/Module aims:
Expansion of political thinking ability and familiarity with the science fiction genre introducing narrative tools. Similarly, thinking about fundamental political issues through allegorical and literary tools.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Submit a seminar paper that will be an analytical article on an issue which illustrates a link between politics SCI-FI, or write a SCI-FI story / screenplay which will be informed by political thought and terms.

Attendance requirements(%):
80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: discussions in class, watching parts of movies, reading SCI-FI novels.

Course/Module Content:
(1) IR as narrative and political imagination.
(2) What is the relationship between science fiction IR?
(3) Science Science Fiction and Politics: SETI, UFO and the world state.
(4) Friendly aliens? "Childhoods End" and Independence Day
How to write a seminar paper and research proposal in this course

Miserable aliens and the state of emergency: scenes from the movie District 9

The lack of ability to communicate with Extraterrestrial Intelligence? "Solaris" and "Roadside Picnic"

The tragic vision of human political destiny: A Canticle to Leibowitz by Walter Miller

(nano) technology and international politics

War, peace and Nano - Technology: The Forever Peace by Joe Haldeman.

The deep internalization of War: A Taste of Armageddon, Star Trek

Alternate History of the Jews in America: "The Plot Against America" by Philip Roth and "The Yiddish Policemen's Union" by Michael Chabon

Alternate History of Israel

"Manuscripts do not burn"? Read "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

Required Reading:

1* Carol Cohn, Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defence Intellectuals, Signs Vol.14 No.4 (Summer 1987), pp. 687-718.


Abigail E. Ruane and Patrick James The international relations of Middle Earth: Learning from The Lord of the Rings (University of Michigan Press, 2012).


9 District " Kid" (1976: Kiyao et: Arthor S. Cleaker "Kid" (1976: Kiyao et: Arthor S. Cleaker "Kid")

- Greg Bourke, "Bare Lifes Bare Essentials: When All Youve Got is Hope" The State of Exception in The Road, District 9, and Blindness, Law, Culture and the
Humanities (February 2012), pp. 1-24.


Trek Star, Armageddon of Taste A (ההפשטה העמוקה של המלחמה)

קריאת רשות

Additional Reading Material:


Abigail E. Ruane and Patrick James The international relations of Middle Earth:Learning from The Lord of the Rings (University of Michigan Press, 2012).


Day Independence- (4)


9 District (5)


- Stanislaw Lem, Peter Engel, John Sigda, "An Interview With Stanislaw Lem,"
Missouri Review, Volume 7, Number 2, 1984, pp. 218-237

(8) החזון הטרגי של הגורל הפוליטי האנושי: המנון לוליבין מאת וולטר מילר (שĽךורא את הספר
לופנ החזון).


(9) תכונה הטרגי של המסגרה הפוליטי בינ"ל

(10) תכונה הטרגי של המסגרה הפוליטי בינ"ל


(11) תכונה הטרגי של המסגרה הפוליטי בינ"ל


OR


Trek Star, Armageddon of Taste A: המטרה הטרגית של המסגרה בינ"ל

(12) המטרה הטרגית של המסגרה בינ"ל


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 10 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

13. הטרונית tsl מיזה של מדינת ישראל: יאיר חסדיאל, תל אביב (다고ות, 2013); יואב אבני, הרצלאמץ (בעד 2011); נאוה סמל, אישראל (ודעות ספורים, 2005); תיאודור הרצל, תל אביב (בבל, /org.medinatweimar//http). עיינו גם באתר "מדינת וויימאר 2011".


