Course Title
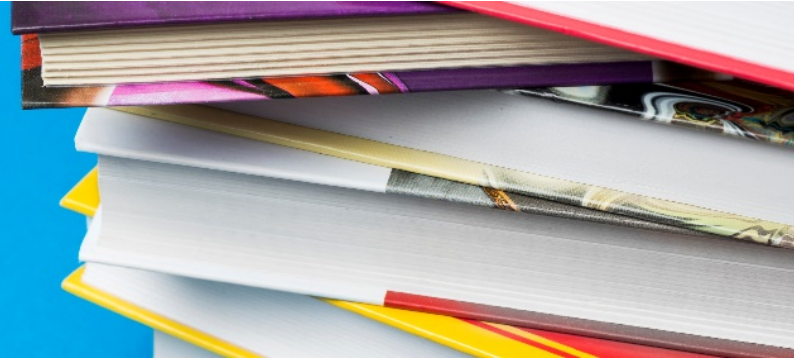
Science Fiction and Digital Culture

Lecturer

Dr. Inbar Kaminsky

Contact details

inbarka@tauex.tau.ac.il
Office hours are on Mondays 12:00-14:00 **but must be scheduled in advance via email.**

Semester

Fall

Short Description

The course will explore the science fiction genre in its dual capacity as both reflective and prophetic of the digital revolution. The course will examine the ways in which narratives of literature and film correspond to digital culture by reflecting the challenges that technology poses for the individual and society, such as digital monitoring and the race for human enhancement. Throughout the lessons, we will also examine the visual aspects of futuristic digital culture by discussing the aesthetics of humanoids and the ethical implications of digitation. Furthermore, the course will deal with the prophetic capacities of science fiction regarding the digital revolution, from the Victorian symbiosis of man and machine, the dependency on screens in early twentieth century literature, the imagery of virtual systems in 1980's cyberpunk and onto the dangers of virtual life at the turn of the twenty-first century.

Final grade components

Minor assignments: 10%
4 short response assignments
Midterm: 20%
A paper of 2 pages, excluding title and Works Cited pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, MLA 8 format)
Final requirement: 60%
A paper of 5-6 pages, excluding title and Works Cited pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, MLA 8 format) 1250-1500 words
Participation: 10%
Active participation in class discussions

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.
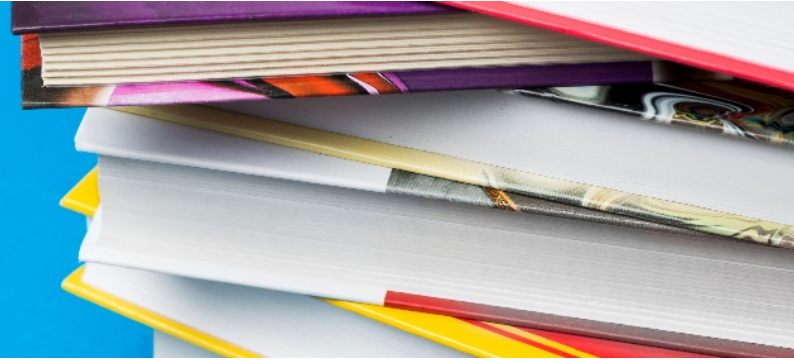
Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from

another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements

Students are required to bring a laptop to every lesson. Please keep your phones turned-off while in class.