Description:
Many scientists and engineers today graduate from college without good skills at the evaluation and presentation of information. The purpose of this course is to use science fiction literature as a springboard to the development of a methodology for both analyzing information and developing future presentation skills. The material presented will interweave science fiction (both current and historical), television, movies, the Internet, and popular culture. Included will be a discussion on how to evaluate information in the information/internet age as well as a complete study of the techniques for the visual display of information. By the careful application of critical skills, the student will learn how to decide what is important in the evaluation of material presented in various mediums as well as the best possible method for conveying information to an audience.


Policies:
Attendance: You are expected to attend class. This is essentially a discussion class and it is important that you be present for all discussions. Failure to do so will adversely affect your participation grade. Attendance will be taken. **Two (2) absences will be permitted without penalty to allow for health or personal reasons. Each absence beyond 2 will result in 5 points being taken off your final grade for each absence.**

It is essential that you be on time for class. Each late entrance to class will result in a 1 point penalty. Leaving early will also incur a penalty. Please note that many classes BEGIN with a quiz that you will not be allowed to make up if you are late.

Quizzes
Some classes will begin with a quiz over the assigned readings. Some quizzes will be online.

Assignments: You are expected to complete all assignments when they are due. Late assignments will only be accepted for extra credit except in cases of documented emergency.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any copied material that is not properly sourced will result in a zero. **YOU CANNOT COPY AND PASTE MATERIAL WITHOUT QUOTATION MARKS AND SOURCES.**

SPSU has an Honor Code and a procedure for handling cases when academic misconduct is alleged. All students should be aware of them. Information about the Honor Code and the misconduct procedure may be found at [http://www.spsu.edu/honorcode/](http://www.spsu.edu/honorcode/).

Students with Disabilities: If you require special assistance, please contact the counselor working with disabilities at 770-528-7244 so that any necessary accommodation can be made.

Cell Phones: All cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate during class. In NO situation will calls be taken during class. Failure to follow this rule will adversely affect your participation grade. If there is an emergency or job related situation where that is not possible, please notify the instructor prior to the class. In those situations, you must step out of the classroom to answer the phone.

Laptop computers: No laptops can be open or in use during this class.

STS 2400 Science, Technology, and Society Course Outcomes:
Students will be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate competing views and the information supporting them. (Presentations)
2. Formulate their own opinions on complex issues and to communicate their views clearly in both written and oral formats, and support their position with relevant evidence. (Class Discussion and Presentations)
3. Recognize the ways in which science and technology have been shaped by, and have helped to shape, society and culture. (Class lectures, presentations and discussions)
4. Apply STS concepts to the scientific disciplines and technologies relevant to their majors. (Final paper)
5. Participate effectively in multidisciplinary groups. (Presentations)

Pandemic Planning:
In the Event of a Declared Emergency Situation, materials will be available on GeorgiaView D2L.
Assignments:
There are specific assignments related to this class. Detailed information on each can be found online in GeorgiaView D2L.

First Assignment:
Annotated Bibliography on group project topic (see calendar for due dates for your class).

Second Assignment:
Final Annotated Outline for your portion of the group project (see calendar for due dates for your class).

Oral Debate/Moderated Discussion
Every student must participate in a presentation and moderate a discussion with the class on a controversial topic. The presentation will be done by teams of 4+ students. Each team will present the “sides” of the issue. After the presentation, the team will monitor a discussion of the subject. Handouts and/or formal presentation materials will improve your grade. Since this class includes online and video presentation materials, the use of such materials is encouraged during your presentation. There is a possibility that one or more groups can present and defend materials online rather than in-person. All materials will be due shortly before the presentations begin (see calendar for due dates for your class).

Evaluation of your team presentation – due the next class after your presentation is given (a one page review answering specific questions). Each member of the team must complete (separately) a one-page review after your presentation.

Final paper (which takes the place of a final exam) is due the week before the semester is completed. This paper is a discussion on the textbook and how different futures will affect your life and work.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Class</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography Outline</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Speech Outline</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation/Debate</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation Review</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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Grading System:
- A: 180 to 200 points
- B: 160 to 179 points
- C: 140 to 159 points
- D: 120 to 139 points
- F: Below 120 points

All assignments will be submitted via GeorgiaView D2L.

All materials must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint format.