

French 420: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literatures

La littérature du Si: science et fiction.

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heures de bureau : le lundi et le mercredi de 12h00 à 13h00 via Zoom

Special note: like all classes in French at the UW, this class was not initially designed to be online! We have all had to adapt very quickly to the new reality of COVID-19 and remote learning. I ask for your patience and understanding, while promising to work as hard as I can to make sure the material and assignments are valuable. I also ask that you give me feedback on what is and isn't working. I will be very flexible and open to reducing the amount of work and/or reading.

Rationale : you will be able to complete all work “asynchronously”, that is, on your own schedule. I will have “synchronous” (live) sessions via Zoom, but they will not be required. I'll make materials available in other ways (slides, recordings etc.) Each week will be one module of work and all work will be due by Friday (if group discussion) or Sunday (if solo assignment) at the end of the week.

General Information, French 420

« un regard sur le présent à travers le prisme du futur »... Jean-Marc Ligny.

« The first language spoken by man was music, poetry, and science, all at the same time” – Jean Starobinski.

Overview: What does science have to do with literature and culture? Surely scientists pursue material facts, and literature creates fictions? This course will seek to complicate such assumptions by studying how these and other domains interact and coevolve in French speculative fiction, usually called science fiction. No knowledge of science required! In fact, I think that the best sci-fi avoids “hard” science in favor of asking questions about humanity and our shared presents and futures.

Readings: All readings will be put on Canvas, including extracts from novels. Please note that this course sometimes requires a significant amount of reading, some weeks more than others. The longer reading assignments are novels and thus relatively easy and fun, but it's still something you'll need to set time aside for.

Assignments and percentage of final grade:

1. 2 quizzes	25 % (2x12.5)
2. Informal online assignments	40 %
3. Posting discussion questions	5%
4. Short research project, 2-3 pages	5%
5. Abstract / outline for final paper	5 %
6. Draft, then final paper, 6-8 pages, on topic of your choice,	5% + 20%

Participation: As you know, this will be a fully online class because of the pandemic. This is not ideal for this kind of class, and I share your frustration. It might be hard to find motivation to get the readings done, especially in a time of stress and uncertainty, and I understand. I will try to replicate some of the class discussion benefits online. Please participate as much as you are able, and know that I understand that you're doing what you can.

Language: Some of the materials will be in English because of the online format and accessibility issues (e.g. videos and captioning). I will try to keep the focus on French where possible, especially in writing assignments. (*update: I'm trying to use YouTube's auto captions to get around the language issue for recorded videos*).

Accommodations : Disability. Please let me know if there is anything I can do, in accordance with or beyond the recommendations of [DRS](#), to help you access the class in the best way possible for you.

Accommodations : Religion. Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](#). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](#)

Plagiarism: In flagrant cases of a student passing someone else's work off as their own, I will follow the [UW policy on plagiarism](#). However if you are unclear about the difference between citing (we all cite others' work!) and plagiarizing, please do talk to me – I know it can be unclear sometimes.