

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 22, Fantasy and Science Fiction (GE C2), Section 02 Fall
2012

Instructor: Peter O'Sullivan

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00-10:00AM
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 - 11:30

Class Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:45

Classroom: DMH 208

GE Category: Area C2: Humanities & Arts, Letters

Course Description

Welcome to English 22, Fantasy and Science Fiction. This is a lower division English Literature course that meets General Education requirements for Area C2: Humanities & Arts, Letters. According to the catalog, "Students will examine works of literary fantasy and science fiction to understand them as expressions of human intellect and imagination; to comprehend their historical and cultural contexts; and to recognize their diverse cultural traditions. Both contemporary and historical works will be studied." In this class in particular, we shall explore the concepts of genre, adaptation, myth, and influence as we delve in a genre bending opus of one of The United States' most prolific writers, plumb the esoteric depths of one of the most adapted science fiction authors of our time, find whether our favorite superheroes should be treated as gods or men, and explore the most famous fantasy world in existence.

Prerequisites English remediation must be completed.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Goals (from SJSU General Education Guidelines)

“Courses in Arts and Letters should give students knowledge and understanding of significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Students will examine the interaction of analytical and creative processes in the production and perception of

such works, and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. Courses should enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic and literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives.”

Student Learning Objectives:

Core General Education Area C2, Letters courses will enable students to

1. recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns;
2. respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses;
3. write clearly and effectively.

Content Objectives:

Core General Education Area C2, Letters courses should give students the opportunity to

- examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination;
- understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created; and
- recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

Academic Policies

Academic Integrity

Your commitment to learning is evidenced by your enrollment as a student at San José State University. The academic integrity policy of the university, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade in this course and sanctions by the university.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Add/Drop Policy

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the policies in the catalog for the current semester at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/Academic_Calendars. The late drop policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the “Advising Hub” at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

- Dick, Philip K. *The Philip K. Dick Reader*; Citadel **ISBN-10:** 0806518561
- Johns, Geoff. *Superman: Secret Origin*; DC Comics **ISBN-10:** 140123299X
- King, Stephen. *The Gunslinger* (revised); Signet **ISBN-10:** 0451210840
- Tolkein, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*; Ballantine Books **ISBN-10:** 0345339681
- Large Green book for Final Examination

Other Readings

Additional readings can be found here: <http://fearlessFSF.wordpress.com>

In addition to the four books we are reading for class, you will also choose a fifth book from a list to be supplied later in the semester for an individual blog project.

Classroom Protocol

Students will come to class every day and prepared to discuss that day's readings. I reserve the right to eject any student who comes to class unprepared. Unpreparedness is defined as not having done the readings and not having the materials necessary for class. The class will be a mélange of small and large group discussions, lectures, student presentations, debates, and activities necessary to facilitate the learning process. Electronic devices such as smartphones and laptops are allowed, as they can be useful in looking up information during class, but I again reserve the right to refuse their use should they become distractions (e.g. facebook during lectures). Also, all cell phones should be silenced (or put on vibrate) before class. I will dance if your cell phone goes off.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading: A-F.

Grade Distribution:

- Out of Class Essays: 300 Points (2 at 150 Points each)

- Aesthetic Statement: 50 Points
- Short Story: 150 Points
- Blog Project: 100 Points
- Group Adaptation Presentation: 100 Points
- Reading Response Blog Entries: 50 Points
- Quizzes: 100 Points
- Final Exam: 150 Point
 - Total: 1000 Points

Assignments and Grading Policy:

Reading: English 22 is a literature course, and thus, by definition, reading intensive. This class aims for quality of reading, not quantity. All readings listed on the calendar must be finished by the class time for the date listed. For example: If the calendar listing for September 25th includes Robert Browning's "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," you must have this poem read before we meet for class on September 25th. Class participation is based predominantly on the readings, so to ensure full credit you must complete the readings by class time and be prepared to participate orally and in writing.

Writing: There are several writing assignments in this class: two brief analytical essays (3-4 pages each), a short story, and an aesthetic statement about the short story. This is in addition to the reading responses that will be due weekly (posted as comments on our class blog) and the blog project I have for the class. Writing is like any skill: the more you practice, the better you get.

Out of Class Essays: You will write two, typed, double spaced, and stapled out of class essays over the course of the semester. Each essay will be a minimum of 750 words long (3-4 pages long depending on font). Rough drafts will be due three weeks from the date of assignment, and final drafts will be due six weeks from date of assignment. You are encouraged to bring rough drafts to my office hours to make essays as excellent as possible.

There will be significant point deductions for not using MLA, or for improper or missing citations. Part of MLA guidelines require the essay be typed in a 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, and with your name and page number in the header. I also require you to include a word count for every out-of-class essay, which you may place in the top of the essay (with your name, date, etc.), or at the end of the essay.

- Essays must be turned in on time, hardcopy to the instructor, which is at the beginning of the class period on the due date.
- Essays must be turned into turnitin.com. You will lose half your essay grade if you fail to submit to this website.
- Late Essay Policy: Essays can be turned in for full credit up to and including the day the instructor hands them back. After that, any essay turned in will lose 50% of its total score.
- Word length requirements are listed on the calendar and on essay assignment sheets.
- Specific instructions will be on assignment sheets.
- A note about minimum requirements: All minimum requirements listed on the writing prompts must be met in order to pass the assignment. Passing is a C. To receive an A you must exceed the requirements.

Story and Aesthetic Statement: Part of understanding genre is dabbling in it. To that end, you will also finish out the semester by writing a story to share with the class. The story must have some elements of Science Fiction and Fantasy in it, which you must explain in your aesthetic statement. The dates for these assignments will be on the calendar.

Quizzes: You will have a series of quizzes throughout the semester, given in several forms. These can be anything from multiple-choice to short answer essay questions to matching. I reserve the right to announce and not announce quizzes as I see fit and will always be on some aspect of the reading

Final Exam: There is a final exam in this class on Friday, December 14, at 9:45 AM. This exam will be a series of short answer essays written in a large green examination book.

Turnitin.com: This class will use turnitin.com for every out of class assignment. To stave off any accidental plagiarism, you will be required to turn both your rough drafts and your final drafts to the site. Failure to upload your essays will result in a loss of 50% of your grade. Be sure to sign up for turnitin.com as soon as possible.

Code: 5377171

Password: iwritegood

Class Blog

Updated information about the class and supplemental readings will be frequently posted to the blog at <http://fearlessFSF.wordpress.com/> and you are encouraged to visit it before each and every class. While there will be in class reminders whenever a reading from the blog is due, you are invariably responsible for accessing the material on there.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

English 22, Fall 2012, Course Schedule

GS = The Gunslinger; The Hobbit; PKD = The Philip K. Dick Reader; SO = Superman: Secret Origin

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wednesday, 8/22/2012	Introductions: What is Science Fiction? Ice Breaker.
2	Monday, 8/27/2012	GS Introduction: Tricky Hobbitses and their influence on genre What is genre? Assign Reading and Blog Project {SLO 1,2,3}
	Wednesday, 8/29/2012	GS Chapter 1 (through VIII) {SLO 1} Browning, Robert. "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came" http://www.bartleby.com/246/654.html {SLO 1} Defining Fantasy {SLO 2}
3	Monday, 9/3/2012	LABOR DAY: NO CLASS
	Wednesday, 9/5/2012	GS Finish Chapter 1 {SLO 1} Defining Science Fiction {SLO 2}
4	Monday, 9/10/2012	GS Chapter 2 (through VI) {SLO 1} Defining Horror {SLO 2}

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Wednesday, 9/12/2012	GS Finish Chapter 2 {SLO 1} Assign Essay #1 (Defining The Gunslinger) {SLO 1,2,3}
5	Monday, 9/17/2012	GS Chapter 3 {SLO 1} Blending and Bleeding Genres {SLO 2}
	Wednesday, 9/19/2012	GS Chapter 4 (through VIII) {SLO1}
6	Monday, 9/24/2012	GS Finish Chapter 4 {SLO1} The Sacrifice of Isaac {SLO 2}
	Wednesday, 9/26/2012	GS to the end. {SLO 1} What is the Gunslinger?
7	Monday, 10/1/2012	Out of Class Essay #1 Due {SLO 1,2,3} The Weird Worlds of Philip K. Dick {SLO1} Assign Movie Club Groups {SLO 1,2}
	Wednesday, 10/3/2012	PKD, 1 – 73 {SLO 1} Adaptation: going from source to new source
8	Monday, 10/8/2012	PKD, The Golden Man (31-55){SLO 1} Discussion and group time {SLO 1, 2}
	Wednesday, 10/10/2012	PKD, We Can Remember it for You Wholesale (305 – 321) {SLO 1} Blade Runner {SLO 1}
9	Monday, 10/15/2012	PKD, The Minority Report and Paycheck (323-355){SLO 1} Blade Runner {SLO 1}
	Wednesday, 10/17/2012	PKD, Second Variety (385 - 422) {SLO 1} Blade Runner {SLO1}
10	Monday, 10/22/2012	Presentation Day {SLO 1, 2 , 3}
	Wednesday, 10/24/2012	It's a Bird! It's a Plane! Superman in our Culture {SLO 1} The Superhero Genre {SLO 1} Assign Essay #2 (Superman: Super or Man?)
11	Monday, 10/29/2012	SO: The Boy of Steel {SLO 1} Man vs. Superman. {SLO 1, 2}

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Wednesday, 10/31/2012	SO: Superboy and the Legion of Superheroes History of Caped Crusaders {SLO 1,2}
12	Monday, 11/5/2012	SO: Mild-Mannered Reporter The Masks we Wear: Jungian Psychology and Superheroes. {SLO 1,2}
	Wednesday, 11/6/2012	SO: Strange Visitor {SLO 1} Power and Corruption {SLO 2}
13	Monday, 11/12/2012	Veterans Day: NO CLASS
	Wednesday, 11/14/2012	Tricksy Hobbitses Part 2: Full circle. {SLO 1} Out of Class Essay #2 Due {SLO 1,2,3} The Hobbit Chapters 1 – 4 {SLO 1} Assign Story and Aesthetic Statement
14	Monday, 11/19/2012	The Hobbit Chapters 5- 8 {SLO 1}
	Wednesday, 11/21/2012	The Hobbit Chapters 9-12 {SLO 1}
15	Monday, 11/26/2012	The Hobbit to the End
	Wednesday, 11/28/2012	Story Workshops
16	Monday, 12/3/2012	Story Workshops
	Wednesday, 12/5/2012	Story Workshops
17	Monday, 12/10/2012	Story Workshops Last Day of Class Letter to Instructor. Completion of Blog Project {SLO 1,2,3}
Final Exam	Friday, 12/14/2012	Final Exam

Important SJSU dates Fall 2012

Wednesday	August 22	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Monday	September 3	Labor Day - Campus Closed (L)
Tuesday	September 4	Last Day to Drop Courses Without Permanent Record
Tuesday	September 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Wednesday	September 19	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Monday	November 12	Veteran's Day Observed - Campus Closed (V)
Wednesday	November 21	Classes that start at 5:00 PM or later will not meet.
Thursday	November 22	Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed (T)
Friday	November 23	Rescheduled Holiday - Campus Closed (RH)
Monday	December 10	Last Day of Instruction - Last Day of Classes
Tuesday	December 11	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Wed-Tues	Dec 12-18	Final Examinations (exams)
Wednesday	December 19	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Thursday	December 20	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Friday	December 21	Grades Due From Faculty