

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: ANTH 275		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Fantastic and Speculative Worlds Course Short Title: Fantastic & Speculative Worlds															
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences		Department: School of Culture, Media, and Society													
Calendar Description: Explores the connections between anthropology and the worlds of science fiction and fantasy. Considers how core anthropological topics such as otherness, community, variation, social and political organization, and the question of what it means to be human play out in speculative fiction texts. Note: Students with credit for ANTH 299I cannot take this course for further credit.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		18 university-level credits.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: ANTH 299I Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every other year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	45									Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	45														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: No Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: November 9, 2022													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: December 9, 2022													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: February 24, 2023													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss fundamental questions, ideas, and methods of sociocultural anthropology in relation to science fiction and fantasy texts (e.g., film, games, novels).
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the interconnections between the goals of anthropology and speculative fiction.
3. Construct a speculative world, with a focus on the social aspects, by drawing on anthropological theory.
4. Apply anthropological analysis to a speculative world.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the holistic, integrated, and constantly changing nature of culture.
6. Define key anthropological concepts and describe how they are employed in speculative fiction (e.g., race, power, the other, empire, science, personhood).

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	55%	Project:	45%	%
	%		%	%

Details:

Assignments (55%): superhero assignment (15%), ethnography of a speculative fiction text (25%), fieldnotes on community and roleplaying games (15%)

Group worldbuilding project (45%): speculative world report (30%), cultural encounter presentation (15%)

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lectures, class discussion, audio-visual materials, in-class exercises, group work, and guest lecturers

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Kilman, Michael, Wellstrom, Kyra	Kilman, Michael, and Kyra Wellstrom. 2021. <i>Build Better Worlds: An Introduction to Anthropology for Game Designers, Fiction Writers, and Filmmakers</i> . Plano, Texas: Infinite Sky Learning, LLC.	2021
2. Textbook	Jemisin, N.K.	Jemisin, N. K. 2015. <i>The Fifth Season</i> . Orbit.	2015
3. Online resource	Anderson, Ryan	Anderson, Ryan, Emma Louise Backe, Taylor Nelms, Elizabeth Reddy, and Jeremy Trombley. 2018. "Introduction: Speculative Anthropologies." <i>Society for Cultural Anthropology</i> (blog). December 18, 2018. https://culanth.org/fieldsights/introduction-speculative-anthropologies .	2018
4. Video	Curry, Arwen	Curry, Arwen, dir. 2018. <i>Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin</i> . Documentary.	2018
5. Online resource	Jackson, Rosemary	Jackson, Rosemary. 1981. "The Fantastic as Mode." In <i>Fantasy: The Literature of Subversion</i> , 8–35. London: Routledge.	1981

Course Content and Topics

- Anthropology and speculative fiction
- Playing other selves
- Superheroes and mutants
- Worldbuilding and storytelling
- Alien encounters
- Agency, choice, and personhood
- Myths, history, and identity
- Community and connectedness
- Globalization and cultural encounters
- Unruly technology
- The Final Frontier
- Futurism as anti-colonial practice