In this class we will be looking at science fiction of the “hard” variety as novels and movies. We will examine artificial intelligence, aliens, nuclear destruction, run-away science, and, not least, social science.

Sci-fi is speculative fiction, often of the ‘cautionary tale’ variety. We’ll see if we can determine whether the science is, indeed, "hard" enough to be probable, and why this particular author has opted to tell his/her tale in the way we find it at the historical moment the tale was written/published/filmed.

You will each give one 15–20 minute presentation on the background of one of our texts and its author (see list below), be active in class discussion, and write a 10–15 and a 15–20 page paper on a topic of your own choosing, incorporating research and approved by me. Thus we’ll have a lot of fun together.

Books (available at the Campus Bookstore):
More, *Utopia* (The Norton Critical Edition is, well, critical. We'll use some of the texts in the back)
Huxley, *Brave New World*
Orwell, *1984*
Asimov, *I, Robot*
Bradbury, *The Illustrated Man*
Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*
Miller, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*
Boule, *Planet of the Apes*
Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*
Crichton, *Prey*

Grade breakdown:
Presentation: 35%
Papers: 15% and 25%
Participation: 25%

Please be on time and prepared. One absence is allowed without your grade suffering. Also, please curb your cell phone’s urges to warble its siren song during class...
Syllabus (subject to change):

January 28: Introduction to the course. Finalize presentation selections. Discussion of More's *Utopia*. Please also read criticism by Kautsky (p. 162), Ames (p. 179), Hexter (p. 190), Surtz (p. 202) Fox (p. 228)

February 4, 11: *Brave New World*, novel and film; hopefully also presentation

February 18, 25: *1984*, novel and film; hopefully also presentation

March 3: *I, Robot*

**First paper due**

March 10: *The Illustrated Man*

March 17: Spring break

March 24, 31: *Fahrenheit 451*, novel and film; hopefully also presentation

April 7: *A Canticle for Leibowitz*

April 14, 21: *Planet of the Apes*, novel and film; hopefully also presentation

**Second paper due**

April 28: *The Left Hand of Darkness*

May 5: *Prey* and *The Hunger Games*

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

**Academic Integrity:**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and
School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

**Critical Incident Management:**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

**Presentation Authors; Historical Topics:**

1. Huxley  
2. Orwell  
3. Asimov  
4. Bradbury  
5. *World War II; Cold War*  
6. Miller  
7. *Planet of the Apes film and the Civil Rights Movement*  
8. Le Guin  
9. Crichton  
10. Collins and critical thought on *The Hunger Games*