Textbooks:


Paknadel, Alex and Eric Pfeiffer. *Arcadia*. New York: Boom! Studios, 2016. Print. (Our bookstore is unable to obtain this book, because it’s...from Canada? Use Amazon or Comixology.)


Many of our other course materials will be pdfs through our Blackboard shell--make sure you know how to access BB and download these readings!

Course Policies

- **Attendance**: If you were not physically in class, you were absent. All absences are the same--there are no ‘excused’ absences in my classes. You are an adult with a right to privacy: I do not need to know why you miss class, since they are all the same to me.

  Students can accrue four absences without penalty. On the fifth absence, you will fail the course. Use your four absences wisely.

  Should you come in late, after I have taken attendance, it is your responsibility to see me after class to make sure that your attendance is noted. If you do not, you were absent. Should you miss more than 15 minutes of class--either at the beginning or leaving early or in the middle--I reserve the right to mark you as absent. Repeated lateness will affect your grade.

- **Late Work**: Late work, defined as work not handed in, hard copy, on the day that it is due, is not accepted. I do not accept emailed submissions. I do not accept late work. If you will miss class the day an assignment is due, make arrangements to hand in work early. If you realize you will not be able to hand in a paper the day it is due, you can hand it in by midnight THE DAY BEFORE it is due via our Blackboard dropbox. Electronic submissions will not be accepted otherwise. Failure to hand in a paper will result in an F for the course.
● Email. I will not respond to emails sent to me from non-student accounts as per FERPA, federal law. Emails from student accounts will be answered within 24 hours: don't plan on emailing the night before about an assignment due the next morning.

This is an English class, so keep that in mind as you craft your email: try to show that you can use the English language appropriately. Make sure you have a clear question. Should that question be ‘what did I miss’ after an absence, I will save you time right now: I will reply telling you to consult the syllabus and visit me in my office hours. Questions that can be answered by the syllabus will not be answered.

Should you have missed a quiz or handing in a response, you can hand those in to me any time BEFORE the next scheduled meeting of the class.

● Cellphones will not help you pass the class. There should be nothing on your desk but your textbook, notebook, and writing implements. If you have your phone out during class, you may be marked absent for the day and asked to leave, and you will definitely lose your studentship grade for the semester, whether or not I say anything to you about it. This is your warning: no phones.

● Classroom manners College celebrates diversity of thought and opinion, tempered with respect. Rudeness will not be tolerated, especially toward your fellow students. You may disagree with another student (or me!) but you must express that disagreement without name-calling, profanity, slurs, or insults. Those are the tools of bullies, and I do not tolerate bullies in my classroom.

You are required to participate in your own education. Simply showing up is not an A for studentship. Participation means doing what you’re supposed to be doing: showing up prepared for class (homework done and with all required materials), and doing class activities. Showing up unprepared, or leaving class, will damage your studentship grade.

● Office visits My office is 2-G. My office hours are posted on my office door. You may visit me in my office to discuss your coursework, if you need any help on an assignment, to make up a quiz, to find out what you missed when you were absent, please come visit me during those hours.

● Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. The definition of plagiarism for this class will be the one here http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/. Please note that that includes ‘paraphrase’ as well as copy/paste. Should you plagiarize or cheat, you will fail the course for the semester and may be referred to the Dean for further sanctions.

● Trigger Warnings, etc. College is not Tumblr. In the course of this semester, we may come across topics that are challenging, disturbing, or offensive to your current beliefs; topics including sexual intimacy, sexuality, race, and death. These things are all things we encounter in the real
world, and college prepares us to engage in the real world. You may be offended: that is your right. You do not, however, have the right to shut down or censor conversation because of it. If you do not feel that you can handle serious topics in a mature fashion, you might consider dropping this course.

Course Schedule  (n.b. This is a desired schedule–events may be altered due to inclement weather/school closures, etc.

The WAYPOINTS are moments for us to check in. They will finish out each unit with a small, in-class writing assignment/discussion. They are also chances for you to hand in work for me for feedback for your final portfolio. You do not have to turn in portfolio work at any waypoint, but if you want feedback and time and guidance to revise, maybe try it! That said, please try not to miss the WAYPOINTS.

1. Unit One: Anxiety: Current Robot News
3. “Surrogates”
4. Hardware/R.U.R.
5. Hardware
7. Excerpt from “L’Eve Future”/Metropolis
8. WAYPOINT ONE relevant presentations
9. Unit Two: The Body: Laura Mulvey, Judith Butler
10. “No Woman Born”/ RoboCop
11. RoboCop
12. Ex Machina/ Transformers Arcee packet
13. Ex Machina
14. WAYPOINT TWO relevant presentations
15. Unit Three: Love “Rosey’s Boyfriend” “Robot and Scarecrow”
16. Silver Metal Lover/HER
17. HER “Magnetism”
18. Battle Angel Alita
19. WAYPOINT THREE relevant presentations
20. Unit Four: Humanity “iMom”
21. Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep/ Blade Runner
22. Blade Runner
Grade
In this class, your grade will be comprised of

STUDENTSHIP 25%
Which is how well you play the game of being a student. Are you doing the readings? Are you participating in class activities and discussions?

PORTFOLIO: the written component for this class will be compiled into a solid portfolio.

ABSTRACT 25%
Please do use MLA citation style, 7th or 8th Ed. We will model an abstract in class several times. Your task is to complete two one-page abstracts for this class, from peer-reviewed articles on any of the texts from our class (or also the text of your Presentation). Both abstracts can be on the same text, or they can each be on a different text. Why abstracts? Because the abstract format will be your very best friend in your upper level college classes--time to master this now!

COMPARISON PAPER 25%
You might notice how I keep calling back to previous stuff we’ve covered in class. We’re building a knowledge base! One of the best ways to use a knowledge base is by comparing and contrasting items in that base. By this point in the semester, you have a pretty sizeable array of texts to choose from. You might choose to compare or contrast two female characters (say, Ava and Maria) two male characters (Deckard and Alex Murphy), or a male and a female character (Chappie and the Windup Girl), etc. What you compare or contrast them on? It’s up to you!
You can, of course, choose to compare the film you do for your Presentation as one of your texts, too! This will be a 4-6 page paper, with a solid thesis, and strong basis of comparison or contrast. (Friendly reminder from ENG 101: ‘X and Y are the same but also different’ is not a thesis--it is a hot mess!)

PRESENTATION: 25%
This syllabus is crammed with stuff, and I know there’s plenty more out there (do I ever!) So, in this assignment, you will present a text we didn’t have time to cover in class to the class. Your presentation will include a very short summary of the ‘plot’ (VERY short!), and will tell us how this text adds to our knowledge base--is it more evidence to a theory we’ve already got cooking, or is it adding a new ingredient to our pot? Or is it saying something different that challenges us?

Texts you can choose from for your presentation*:
Uncanny
RoboCop
I, Robot
Wall-E
Aliens
Terminator 2
Iron Man
Pacific Rim
Elysium
Brave Police J-Decker
The Machine

*if you have a suggestion not on this list, please feel free to make a convincing sales pitch to me. I don’t want you to founder because you chose a weak text!

(I wish I could include Westworld, Humans and Blood Drive to this list, but they are a bit too long to be able to present! If you want to work with them for your final paper, please talk to me first!)