



Science Fiction & Dystopian Literature

Mrs. DeCosta- B42- 2025-26

YOUR NAME _____
CLASS PERIOD _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

Course Description: Get ready to dive into strange new worlds, future societies, and what-if scenarios! In this year-long senior English course, you'll explore the thrilling realms of science fiction and dystopian literature. Through four exciting units, we'll look at how authors imagine the future to examine real-life issues, like tech gone too far, powerful governments, environmental disasters, and unfair societies. We'll read both classic and modern stories, and also break down scenes from movies and TV shows to sharpen your visual analysis skills and spark deeper conversations.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify and analyze key conventions of science fiction and dystopian literature
2. Examine how authors use world-building to create compelling speculative settings
3. Analyze the relationship between technological advancement and societal change in science fiction
4. Compare and contrast utopian and dystopian elements in various texts
5. Explore the ethical implications of artificial intelligence and advanced technology
6. Analyze how science fiction authors address environmental issues and climate change
7. Evaluate the effectiveness of speculative fiction in addressing social inequality

Class Expectations:

1. Cell phones/ear buds are NOT Permitted– at all. They must be powered off and placed in the cell phone holders. I should never see them. Ever. If they are seen, it is an automatic referral.
2. Always be prepared, on time, and try your best. Attendance and participation are crucial for success in this class.
3. Always follow the R.U.L.E: Respect, Understand Listen, Enjoy
4. Remember your “assigned” seat
5. Complete your work with integrity (Acceptable Use of AI Before all assignments, you will get clear instructions on what type of AI you may use. Pay close attention to this information, and be ready to provide examples of your work, including Google Docs history. If your work is called into question, and you cannot provide proof, you may receive a zero and be unable to redo the assignment)

[Honor Code pt 1](#)

[Honor Code pt 2](#)

[Plagiarism](#)

[Policies](#)

[AI](#)

Expectations Not Met: Teacher warning/ Private discussion, call home– really?

Supplies PS-- I have resources. Lots. If at ANY time you need supplies (for school or LIFE):

- EVERY DAY BRING YOUR CHARGED LAPTOP (you can take notes in whatever format works best for you– notebook, binder, or electronic)
- A 2-Pocket folder specifically for this class
- Pens (red and black/blue), pencil, highlighter

Availability: I am ALWAYS available if you need extra help, need to make up work, have questions, or just need an ear or a shoulder. This room is your home. You are safe and loved here. Here's where you can find me... B42. I check my email constantly; you should also check your school email on a daily basis. You are welcome to spend Mustang Time in here whenever you wish.

Things to Do This Year:

- Summer Reading Assessment
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Novels, Poetry, Short Stories
- Essays
- Movies, Music, Art
- Presentations
- Research Paper (*REQUIRED TO GRADUATE*)
- Independent Reading
- College Essay

AND... a variety of other stuff (i.e. cool project options, tests, quizzes, games, demos, skits, group/partner work, discussions/debates, Socratic Seminars, trips, etc...)

***We also work in THEMES. Thematic units blend purpose and focus and related materials increase memory. Our 1st theme is "Elements of Dystopia and Science Fiction: Total Control." WE DO NOT CENSOR ANY MATERIALS HERE; SIGNING THIS SYLLABUS ACTS AS A PERMISSION SLIP**

Evaluation: Everything counts. You will be graded on a percentage system each marking period:

MAJOR ASSESSMENTS

- Essay (20%) & Performance Assessment (20%) = **40%**

MINOR ASSESSMENTS

- Summer Reading (5% for 1st MP only) & 3-4 other assessments (30% for 1st MP only_
- MP 2, 3, 4 this category is worth **35%** (4-5 other assessments)

PREPARATION/PARTICIPATION, PRACTICE

- homework/ classwork (8-10 assignments)= **25%**

Late/missing work is entered as "0" into the gradebook until I receive it; you have a 3 day window to turn in late/missing work; -10 for each day late. PLEASE email me at any time if you have questions about late/missing work. You MUST be sure to check our Google Classroom and/or the agenda board every day for posted work and due dates

Extras:

- Fall Production
- National Honor Society
- Girls on Fire
- Thrift Store
- Student Voice
- Class Advisor
- College help

**I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A VERY EXCITING YEAR
AND I HOPE YOU ARE TOO. TRY YOUR BEST AND GOOD
LUCK! THIS PAPER IS DUE ON _____ SIGNED BY A
PARENT OR GUARDIAN FOR YOUR PPP GRADE (10pts)!!!**

