

## Nostalgia and Futurity in 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Science Fiction

Dr. Lara Dodds  
Thursdays, 6:00-8:50



This course provides an advanced introduction to the critical study of literary science fiction, with a particular focus on the identification of formal and narrative properties that are characteristic of the genre. Within this framework we will interrogate the premise that science fiction is a genre of the future. Our critical questions will include: what are the different temporal strategies used by authors of science fiction? What are the social or political uses of the past, present, and future in the genre? How does science fiction use the past and the present in its construction of alternate futures?

Assignments may include brief presentations, article and/or magazine reviews, and a research project or seminar paper.

Readings will include selected short stories, brief critical works, and the following books:

Adam Roberts, *Science Fiction* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Routledge) ISBN: 9780415366687

H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* 9780451530707

Joanna Russ, *The Female Man* 9780807062999

Octavia Butler, *Dawn* 978-0446603775

China Mieville *Embassytown* (Del Ray) ISBN: 978-0345524492

Charles Yu, *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* 978-0307739452

Kim Stanley Robinson, *Aurora* (Orbit) ISBN: 978-0316098106

Kiese Laymon *Long Division* (Agate Bolden) ISBN: 9781932841725

Margaret Atwood *Oryx and Crake* (Anchor) ISBN: 9780385721677