The following course overview serves as a contract between the student and the instructor teaching this course. Please read the entire text carefully and let the instructor know if you have any questions about it as soon as possible.

<table>
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<th>春 2018</th>
<th>课程说明：</th>
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</table>
|**学年**：2018年 | **课程说明：**
|**教师**：Olga Klimova | 这门课程比较斯拉夫语和盎格鲁语的科幻文学在文学和视觉文本。它研究了在东方（即东欧和俄罗斯）和西方（即美国、德国和英国）一个特定文化的主要关注点是如何在一种受欢迎的东方文化中被表达出来的。这些关注点出现在以科学为背景的“超现实”情境中。我们基于广阔的文学作品、故事和电影讨论这些话题，如进步、乌托邦、人类完善性、性别不平等、女性化和男性化、科学的界限、知识的性质、生态和可验证性。

More broadly, the goals of this course are to improve students’ critical and analytical skills by incorporating a variety of critical perspectives (Marxism, feminism, postmodernism, etc.) as we read, explain, and problematize the course’s texts, bringing to light ideological bias, relevance, social commentary, historical context, and narrative coherence. In studying critical theoretical framework, the students will explore the texts’ representations of societies, economies, genders, ideologies, and scientific assumptions.

**课程要求：**

Students are required (1) to complete the assignments scheduled by specific deadlines—normally that means read 80-120 pages and/or watch 1-2 film(s) per week; (2) to participate actively and intelligently on a REGULAR basis in the course discussions; (3) to take weekly reading and watching quizzes (12 total); to take 1 final exam; (4) to present a digital poster in a group of 3-4 students (5) to attend all class meetings during the semester; (6) to complete a final group project—a digital essay.
CLASS FORMAT:

This course carries three credits and satisfies the School of Arts and Sciences’ requirement in foreign/comparative culture. It meets once a week for 2 hours and 25 minutes throughout the semester, and combines lecture and discussion, with films viewed in class as well as outside. Besides readings in the forms of books to purchase and readings posted on CourseWeb, you will be expected to watch films on your own. Almost every week, there will be a reading and/or viewing quiz that you will have to take by 11:59pm on Sunday (after that, they won’t be available).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

In addition to the required texts for the course (available at University Book Center or on Amazon.com), required readings will also be available on CourseWeb or otherwise.

Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We* (Russia)
Stanislaw Lem, *Futurological Congress* (Poland)
Mikhail Bulgakov, *Heart of a Dog* (Russia)
Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, *Roadside Picnic* (Russia)—on CourseWeb
Karl Capek’s *War with the Newts* (Czech Republic)
Viktor Pelevin, *Omon Ra* (Russia)
Octavia Butler, “Bloodchild” (USA)—on CourseWeb
Phillip K. Dick, “We Can Remember It For You Wholesale” (USA)—on CourseWeb
William Gibson, “Johnny Mnemonic” (USA-Canada)—on CourseWeb

REQUIRED FILMS:

You can watch most of these films on Netflix, Youtube, and through other online sources. All films are also on reserve in the Media Center in Hillman Library and should be watched there. You may also check your local library and check out these films to watch them at home. For some of the films, we might have to schedule an additional screening on campus.

Fritz Lang, *Metropolis* (Germany), enhanced by Giorgio Moroder
Iakov Protozanov, *Aelita, Queen of Mars* (Russia)
Paul Verhoeven, *Total Recall* (USA)
Juliusz Machulski, *Sex Mission* (Poland)
Georgii Danellia, *Kin-dza-dza* (Russia)
George Pal, *The Time Machine* (USA)
Andrei Tarkovskii, *Stalker* (Russia)
Robert Longo, *Johnny Mnemonic* (USA)
Aleksei Fedorchenko, *First on the Moon* (Russia)
*Black Mirror*, TV series (England)
COURSE WEBSITE:

In this course, we will be using a web course tool called Blackboard. All course materials, announcements, quizzes, and grades will be online. You will use your main Pitt account to log in to the course at CourseWeb (http://CourseWeb.pitt.edu). This course site will be available to you from the first day of the term.

If you have not used Blackboard before, in order to get started with a Blackboard course, please see the Blackboard Student Manual http://help.blackboard.com/. If you need further help, the Pitt Technology Help Desk Team provides technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can be reached at 412-624-HELP, helpdesk@pitt.edu http://technology.pitt.edu/help-desk

EVALUATION AND GRADES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading/viewing quizzes (12<em>10 points/10</em>12 points):</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A digital poster+oral presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A final exam</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A final group project (a digital essay)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A storyboard (an outline) for digital essay</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer- and self-evaluation of digital essays</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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**TOTAL:** 500 points=100%

The following grading standards will be used in assigning grades in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>64-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>65-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>53 and below</td>
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ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Since attendance is critical to course performance, more than three unexcused absences will automatically result in a lower grade (each additional absence will reduce the grade by a notch: B to B-, C+ to C, etc.). Six absences automatically translate into an F for the course. Students must sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of class. If serious illness prevents class attendance, documentation of that fact is required in the form of a letter from a doctor, stating that ON THE DAY AT THE TIME THE CLASS MEETS the student was too ill to attend. In order for the student's absence to be excused, that letter must be submitted THE DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO CLASS.
It is the students' responsibility to find out from their classmates whether important information or materials were handed out during a session they missed. Students therefore should obtain the telephone number and/or E-mail address of at least one of their classmates.

**Neighbor’s tel. _______________ Neighbor’s E-mail _______________**

Students experiencing special problems in the course should make an appointment with the instructor during office hours.

Participation is also an important part of this course. You should participate in our class discussions. Your responses must be thoughtful and reference the assigned material specifically. I will judge your responses on thoughtfulness, thoroughness of understanding, depth of analysis, and how much it contributes to the discussion at hand, moving it forward in useful and interesting ways. You will also have a chance to discuss some questions in small groups during our class meetings. Your participation in small group discussions will be also counted toward your participation for that class meeting.

**QUizzes:**

Almost every week there will be a reading and/or viewing quiz, based on the assigned material for that week. The only exception is our quiz 1 that you will complete in class on January 22. You will complete the rest of the quizzes online on our Courseweb page. The deadline is 11:59 pm on Sundays (the day before our class meeting), and there are NO makeup quizzes or extensions (unless official documented reasons). I will drop the lowest TWO scores on these quizzes at the end of the semester.

**Digital Poster and Presentation:**

Throughout the semester, in a group of three-four students, you will prepare one digital poster (or an infographic) on a specific topic related to the main themes of that class session. You will need to post it on our Courseweb page by 11:59 pm on Sunday, to present it in class, and to be ready to facilitate a brief class discussion on your topic (all together no longer than 5-10 minutes). We will have about 2 poster presentations per one class meeting. You will be able to sign up for this presentation on our Courseweb page (through the wiki “Poster Presentation Sign-up.” You need to talk to me about your presentation or send me your ideas or an outline for your poster one week before your presentation (on Monday before our class at 6 pm).

**Final Group Project (A Digital Essay):**

Students will be working on and submitting one final group project at the end of the semester. You will work with partners on this assignment (appr. 5 students in each group). You will be creating a digital essay up to 3-4-minute-long (like a small movie). In your video essay, you should make an argument about subject matter (have a thesis and support that thesis just like a written paper) and treat it as a piece of communication intended for practical use. For that reason, you should keep in mind four fundamental rhetorical concerns: your audience (who will view the video), purpose (your aim for the video), genre (consider genre expectations), and
context (the social, political, and technological). Your video essay may combine various art forms (pictures, music, video, words, voice, etc.). One of the main requirements is that you have to use at least one Slavic text (visual or literary) and one Western text (USA, England, Germany, etc.).

Choose a specific topic/theme relevant to our course, on which your group will be working. The detailed instructions on how to complete this assignment will be distributed later in the semester.

You will have to submit your storyboard (a special kind of an outline for digital essays) through Courseweb by our class on March 12th. You will submit your digital essay through Coursweb (links to Youtube or Google Drive on our discussion board) by 6pm on Wednesday, April 25 and watch 2 digital essays prepared by other students and evaluate them along with your own digital essay (self- and peer-evaluations) through Google Forms by 6pm on Friday, April 27.

FINAL EXAM:

In this course, there will be one final exam. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, mix-and-match, short essay questions, and other types of questions. You will have to take it online through Courseweb by Sunday, April 22. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED. IF A STUDENT MISSES AN EXAM, S/HE WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THAT EXAM.

DISABILITY POLICY:

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she must notify the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Service as early as possible in the semester. The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify, call to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 140 William Pitt Union, phone: Phone: 412-648-7890, video Phone: 412-228-5374.

PLAGIARISM:

As “Student Obligations and Adjudication” (University Policy 02-03-03) states, “students have an obligation to exhibit honesty, and to respect the ethical standard of his (their) chosen profession in carrying out (their) academic assignments”. According to the University of Pittsburgh’s policy, a student “violates this obligation” if he/she: “a) presents as one’s own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or works of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources; b) submits the work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be one’s own; c) knowingly permits one’s work to be submitted by another person without the instructor’s authorization”.

The penalties for academic misconduct like plagiarism can be very severe. The immediate consequence of plagiarism will be receiving a grade zero for the particular assignment and can lead to an F for the course.
For the references, please, check and The Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Science’s Academic Integrity Code at [https://as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code](https://as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code) and the Guidelines on Academic Integrity at [https://provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf](https://provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf).

**CELL PHONE AND LAPTOP POLICY**

All cellular telephones must be switched off before coming to class. The use of all mobile devices during Russian class is prohibited, unless it is a requirement for our in-class learning activities. If you need to make or accept an urgent phone call, you should do it outside the classroom. There should be absolutely no text messaging during the class period.

The use of laptops is prohibited during our classes. You are allowed to use your laptops only if they are required for our in-class learning activities.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

* subject to revision by the instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topic/Titles/Themes</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1 January</td>
<td>Syllabus and Course Requirements. Introduction into Sci-Fi. The definition of the genre. Sci-Fi and socio-historical context. Cultural Studies.</td>
<td>• Watch 2 films <em>Metropolis</em> and <em>Aelita, Queen of Mars</em>. • Reading/Viewing Quiz 1 in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2 January 15</td>
<td><strong>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<td>WEEK 3 January 29</td>
<td>H.G. Wells, <em>The Time Machine</em>. George Pal, <em>The Time Machine</em>. Movement through time: Victorian industry and dystopia. Visualizing the future; vertical spatialization of technological developments (above and below ground); the film’s technological solutions. Narrative frame.</td>
<td>• Read the novel <em>We</em>. • Reading/Viewing Quiz 3 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 4 February 5</td>
<td>Yevgeny Zamyatin, <em>We</em>. Totalitarianism and social control; gender roles, math and sciences vs. art and music. Dystopia in sci-fi. Satire in sci-fi.</td>
<td>• Read the novel <em>Heart of a Dog</em>. • Reading/Viewing Quiz 4 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5 February 12</td>
<td>Mikhail Bulgakov, <em>Heart of a Dog</em>. Science and human/animal experimentation in sci-fi. Totalitarianism and socialist realism. Class struggle and intelligentsia.</td>
<td>• Read the novel Futurological Congress. • Reading/Viewing Quiz 5 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday</td>
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<td>WEEK 6 February 19</td>
<td>Stanislaw Lem, <em>Futurological Congress</em>. Irony and paradox. Skepticism about totalizing systems and misuse of science and reason. Bentham’s theory of utility.</td>
<td>• Read the novel <em>Roadside Picnic</em>. • Reading/Viewing Quiz 6 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday</td>
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| WEEK 7  | **February 26** | **Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, Roadside Picnic. Andrei Tarkovskii, Stalker.**  
Philosophical sci-fi. Ecological crisis/economical crisis. Mutations and human responsibility. Exploring cosmos or confronting the self; nature of “the alien”; data/information/knowledge; synthesis of genres.  
  
- Prepare for the exam.  
- Read the short story “Bloodchild.”  
- Watch the film *Sex Mission* (only as a last resort, *Futurama: The Amazon Women in the Mood*).  
- Reading/Viewing Quiz 7 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday |
| March 5-11 | **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS** |
| WEEK 8  | **March 12** | **Octavia Butler, “Bloodchild.” Juliusz Machulski, Sex Mission. Futurama: The Amazon Women in the Mood.**  
  
- Storyboard is due  
- Read the novel *War with the Newts*.  
- Reading/Viewing Quiz 8 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday |
| WEEK 9  | **March 19** | **Karl Capek’s War with the Newts.**  
  
- Read the novel *Omon Ra*.  
- Watch the film *First on the Moon*.  
- Reading/Viewing Quiz 9 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday |
| WEEK 10 | **March 26** | **Viktor Pelevin, Omon Ra. Aleksei Fedorchenko, First on the Moon.**  
Documentary and sci-fi. Space programs and space race. Cold war discourse in sci-fi.  
  
- Read the short stories.  
- Watch the film *Total Recall*.  
- Reading/Viewing Quiz 10 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday |
  
- Watch 2 films *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Kindza-dza*.  
- Reading/Viewing Quiz 11 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday |
• Reading/Viewing Quiz 12 through Courseweb, 11:59pm on Sunday |
| WEEK 13 | **April 16** | **Sci-Fi on Television. Charlie Brooker’s *Black Mirror. Conclusions.***  
Techno-dystopia. The power and threat of new media and social media. Technology addiction. | • Prepare for the exam.  
• Finish your digital essays, post them on Youtube or Google Drive, and post links on the Courseweb discussion board. |
| WEEK 14 | **April 23** | **FINAL EXAM through Courseweb by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 22.** | • Digital essay is due on Tuesday, April 25 at 6pm. Peer- and self-evaluations are due on Friday, April 27 by 6pm. |