

**Special Topics in Film Narrative:
Technology and Consciousness in Film**

ENGL 4543 Fall 2022 Syllabus

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Email is the best way to reach me.

OFFICE HOURS

MW, 10-11:30 a.m.; TR, 10-11 a.m.; and by appointment

CLASS MEETS - TR, 11:00 a.m -12:20 p.m., PY205

FILMS/SERIES

- “Replay,” Jordan Peele’s *Twilight Zone* (2019)
- “San Junipero,” *Black Mirror* (2016)
- “Arkangel,” *Black Mirror* (2017)
- “Good News About Hell,” “Half Loop,” “In Perpetuity,” *Severance* (2022)
- *12 Monkeys* (1995)
- *La Jetée* (1962) (Inspiration for *12 Monkeys*)
- *The Matrix* (1999)
- *Inception* (2010)
- *Get Out* (2017)

We will watch the films/series in class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to watch on your own.

CLASS READINGS

We will read essays about each of the films/series we will study in class. These essays will be available in D2L. I would prefer that you read the essay(s) after our initial viewing of the film so that you can bring the fresh eyes of the original audience to the content and form.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Who are we? What do we know? How do we know what we know? In this class, we will explore the intersections of technology and consciousness as we consider the nature of reality as depicted in film. We will consider both content and form of each work as well

as cultural and historical context within which the film/episode. Students will develop a vocabulary to discuss the formal/technical aspects of film. They will also become conversant in how film comments on the society, cultural, and historical movements of the time in which it was created.

Please Note: Film is a vibrant and graphic (by nature) medium for the portrayal of the depth and breadth of human experience. The films and shows we will watch may contain difficult and painful subjects. While I will give you a brief overview of the films before we watch them, I think it is important to view the work the first time with the fresh eyes of the original audience. We will spend significant time after our viewing to deconstruct and discuss what we have watched. I am happy to talk with students about concerns related to the films we watch.

ASSIGNMENTS

15% Short Paper
20% Midterm Exam
20% Final Exam

Project, which will include:

10% Proposal
20% Formal Research Paper
15% Presentation

POLICIES

Attendance Policy:

I expect each student to be in class each day, on time, and prepared for each class meeting. Preparation includes doing any assigned reading or completing assignments before coming to class on that day. Students who do not maintain regular attendance in the course may be dropped from the course. No more than four absences in this Tuesday/Thursday class are allowable. If you have extenuating circumstances, please speak with me about them.

Late Work Policy:

Late work will receive a one-letter grade penalty for each day it is late unless you have spoken to me ahead of time to explain the circumstances that require an extension. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis and should not be expected.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or

summary. Penalties for plagiarism in this course can include failure of an assignment, failure of the course, and/or a formal university report of plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Safe Zone Statement:

The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Contacting Your Instructor:

Feel free to contact me either via phone or email. Email is generally a faster way to reach me. Please understand that I will respond on the next business day if you contact me on weekends or after hours.

Syllabus created: J. Dawes, 8/2022