



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau

REL-212-0: WI-Science Fiction & Religion 63445

Asynchronous

Room: NA

Spring 26

3 Credits: CRN: -

Windward Community College Mission Statement

'O keia ka wā kūpono e ho'onui ai ka 'ike me ka ho'omaopopo i kō Hawai'i mau ho'oilina waiwai. Aia nō ho'i ma ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko'olau nā papahana hou o nā 'ike 'akeakamai a me nā hana no'eau. Me ke kuleana ko'iko'i e ho'ohiki ke Kulanui e kāko'o a e ho'okumu i ala e hiki kē kōkua i ka ho'onui 'ike a nā kānaka maoli. Na mākou nō e ho'olako, kāko'o a paipai i nā Ko'olau a kō O'ahu a'e me nā hana no'eau ākea, ka ho'ona'auao 'oihana a me ka ho'onui 'ike ma ke kaiāulu — hō'a'ano a e ho'oulu i nā haumāna i ka po'okela.

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment – inspiring students to excellence

Instructor Information

How to Contact Your Instructor

- Mason, Richard, L.
- Office: TBD, but for now- The Hub, the Library, or meandering about on the great lawn
- Office Hours: Every Monday, from 11:30 – 14:00, or via appt.
- Email: masonrl@hawaii.edu

About

Greetings, I'm Mason! It's great to be your instructor for this course. The best way to get ahold of me is either by E-mail, or better yet, if possible, just holler at me when you see me. I check my E-mail often, but with plenty of emails coming in, getting back might take me a minute. However, I promise to do so ASAP- usually within 24 Hours. *Contact me at any time.*

Alternate Contact Information

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

- Location: Alaka'i 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422

About This Course-

“Anything you dream is fiction, and anything you accomplish is science, the whole history of mankind is nothing but science fiction.” — Ray Bradbury

This course explores and reflects on the presence of religions and religious themes in science fiction films and television shows. Students will also discuss the ethics of robots and forms of artificial intelligence (AI). This course explores the presence of religious themes such as the messianic hero, immortality, free will and determinism, prophecy, evil, mysticism, and apocalypse in films and tv shows including Star Wars, the Matrix, Doctor Who, Superman, Avatar, and more.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- ❖ Identify the presence of the major religious motifs in science fiction films and television shows.
- ❖ Analyze the hero archetype (the monomyth) in religious literature and science fiction media.
- ❖ Investigate the ways in which science fiction constitutes contemporary religious myth-making.
- ❖ Examine the influence and impact that artificial intelligence will have on society.

Writing Intensive Hallmarks (WI)

This course fulfills a WI requirement. The hallmarks of WI courses are:

- ❖ W1. The class uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.
- ❖ W2. The class provides interaction between the instructor and students while students do assigned writing. At least one student-teacher conference on a writing assignment is required in writing intensive courses at WCC.
- ❖ W3. Writing assignments must make up at least 40% of each student’s course grade.
- ❖ W4. The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing – a minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.
- ❖ W5. To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student’s writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.
- ❖ One conference with the professor is required during the course.

Course Format

I’m so excited you’re here! This course is structured to broaden your understanding of the ways in which religious motifs, the hero’s journey, and ethical issues are deeply embedded in science fiction media. Each week you can expect to do the following:

- ❖ 1. Read assigned articles or papers weekly, take notes on what you find and feel.
- ❖ 2. Watch assigned science fiction media (links will be provided, usually to Tubi, Youtube, or other free sites).
- ❖ 3. Answer Weekly discussion questions on Discussion board on Lamakū.
- ❖ 4. Make progress on your writing assignments.
- ❖ 5. Discuss, debate, and participate with your peers.

Required Materials

All required resources are freely available. Textbook readings, my notes, and links to videos will be provided on Lamakū.

- ❖ Daily access to a desktop or laptop computer (Using a smartphone or tablet is insufficient.) You may rent a laptop for the entire semester from the WCC library.
- ❖ Reliable high-speed Internet connection
- ❖ A recent version of the Chrome or Firefox browsers (free) Please use either of these browsers when using Lamakū.
- ❖ A word-processing program, such as web-based Google Docs (free with UH username and most recommended), Word (free student version), or Pages (free with Apple hardware).
- ❖ Zoom video conferencing tool (free)

Most tasks will be due by Monday at Midnight, though in person Meetings and Zoom calls may be at any time convenient to both students and professors.

GRADING INFORMATION

Final grade Breakdown: A+ (97-100); A (93-96); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66); D- (60-62); F (under 60)

Bear in Mind that this is a WI Class. Without the requisite 16 pages, there can be no passing grade.

Late Work Policy. If there is an issue for work being turned in late, please see the instructor. As it stands, work turned in after the due date loses one letter grade per day it is late. As always- please stay in contact with Instructor.

Assignment	Due by Date & Time	% of overall Grade
1 st One Page Paper	Monday Jan 26 th @ 11:59 pm	6%
2 nd One Page Paper	Monday Feb 2 nd @ 11:59 pm	6%
3 rd One Page Paper	Monday Feb 9 th @ 11:59 pm	6%
4 th One Page Paper	Monday Feb 16 th @ 11:59 pm	6%
5 th One Page Paper	Monday Feb 23 rd @ 11:59 pm	6%
1 st Three Page Paper	Monday Mar 9 th @ 11:59 pm	15%
2 nd Three Page Paper	Monday Mar 30 th @ 11:59 pm	15%
Final 5-page Paper	Friday May 8 th @ 11:59 pm	25%
Participation/Discussions	Weekly	10%
Meeting(s)/Conference(s)	TBD	7%

Extra Credit: Students will have to meet with the professor during

Office Hours and discuss the options if they want to pursue Extra Credit. There may be opportunities for extra credit, but these remain on a case-by-case basis. However, bear in mind, that as a WI intensive course, the extra credit would be writing anyway.

Yes, I'm aware overall score is 102%. Just consider it built-in extra credit!

As of Right Now, All Students have a 100% A+ GRADE - *IT IS UP YOU TO MAINTAIN IT.*

	CALENDAR of EVENTS	(Subject To Change)	
DATE	TOPIC	READING	ACTIVITY
Week 1 - (Jan 12 th -18 th)	INTRODUCTIONS	N/A	<i>Introducing yourself in Discussions</i>
Week 2 - (Jan 19 th -25 th)	What is Science Fiction?	A Beginner's Guide to Science Fiction (Amanda Pagan) Joseph Campbell - the monomyth) Superhero Myth: B.J. Oropeza	First Writing assignment assigned- Watch video link (as found on Lamaku)
			What do you recognize in your own favorites?
Week 3 - (Jan 26 th - Feb 1 st)	SUPERMAN!	Jospeh Campbell - Departure	Superman Clips Watch video link (as found on Lamaku)
			1st one-page Paper Due - Mon 2 nd assigned
Week 4 - (Feb 2 nd -8 th)	Superman (Cont.)	Superman - Ken Schenk Joseph Cambell - Initiation	Find a way to Watch the movie. (Which one?)
			2nd one-Page Paper Due -Mon 3 rd Assigned
Week 5 - (Feb 9 th -15 th)	STAR WARS!	Huff Post - Star Wars Article Joseph Cambell - the Hero & the God	Watch the Mythology of Star Wars-
			3rd one-Page Paper Due -Mon 4 th Assigned
Week 6 - (Feb 16 th -22 nd)	Star Wars (Cont.)	Time Article: Nick Carbone Find another one!	Find a way to Watch the movie. (Which one?)
			4th one-Page Paper Due - Mon 5 th Assigned
Week 7 - (Feb 23 rd -Mar 1 st)	Buddha, Jesus, & More	Buddha-Karita of Asvaghosha Excerpts from Book of Luke Joseph Cambell - Crossing the Threshold	Recognize Campbell's Themes in Texts
			5th one -Page Paper Due - Mon 1 st 3 -page assigned
Week 8 - (Mar 2 nd -8 th)	DR, WHO	"Doctor Who: Time travel through faith" "Why does Dr. Who escape Moern Skepticism in a Way the Bible Doesn't?"	Watch Selected Episodes
Week 9 - (Mar 9 th -15 th)	Conferences	Checking in, meeting up, Zoom calls if need be-	Gaming Club on Wednesdays (knock on wood)
			1 st three-Page Paper Due -Mon 2 nd 3-page assigned
<i>Week 10 - (Mar 16th- 22nd)</i>	Spring Break		
	<i>Sláinte is táinte</i>		
Week 11 - (Mar 23 rd -29 th)	STAR TREK	Deeds of Power - Peter Linford Covering Sacred Ground - Darcee L. McLaren & Jennifer E. Porter	Watch Selected Episodes

Week 12 - (Mar 30 th -Apr 5 th)	Star Trek (Cont.)	The Outward Voyage & the Inward Search – Ian Maher Biblical Interpretations in the Star Trek Universe – Jeffrey Scott Lamp	Watch Selected Episodes
			2 nd three-Page Paper Due Mon 5-page assigned
Week 13 - (Mar 6 th -12 th)	The MATRIX	Neo: Messianic Hero of the Matrix - James E. McGrath <i>Earthling Cinema links</i>	Find a way to Watch the movie.
			Work on Paper
Week 14 - (Apr 13 th -19 th)	ADVENTURE-TIME	The Humanism of Adventure Time :- Matthew Bulger 'Adventure Time' would make the best religion - Josef Zorn	Watch Selected Episodes
			Work on Paper
Week 15 - (Apr 20 th -26 th)	Conferences	Checking in, meeting up, Zoom calls if need be-	Gaming Club on Wednesdays (knock on wood)
			Work on Paper
Week 16 - (Apr 27 th -May 3 rd)	Conferences	Checking in, meeting up, Zoom calls if need be-	Gaming Club on Wednesdays (knock on wood)
			Work on Paper
WEEK 17 (May 4 th - 8 th)	Finishing it all up!	Congratulations.	
Friday 8 th May			Final 5-page Paper Due - Fri

Academic Integrity

Work submitted by a student must be the student's own work. The work of others should be explicitly marked, such as through the use of quotes or summarizing with reference to the original author. In this class, students who commit academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism will have the following consequence(s): Students will receive a failing grade for plagiarized assignments.

All cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

[Windward CC Student Conduct Information](#)

[UH System Student Conduct Policy EO 7.208](#)

Include an AI Statement (is it ok in your class? if so, when/how?) Here are some [UH Guidelines](#) and [AI Recommendations](#). Instructors should refrain from sharing or inputting student work into online AI tools, including AI detection tools, without obtaining student consent. Uploading student work has potential FERPA implications as well as potential copyright concerns. Additionally, the uploaded content could be used as data for training of the AI, without the student's consent.

Student Responsibilities

RESPECT:

The material presented is sacred to millions of people around the world. It is vital that it is presented with the decorum and magnanimity it so richly deserves. Though a student may disagree with it, even disapprove of it, they must still approach the subject matter with all the respect that they would show their own beliefs.

This goes doubly so for others in the classroom. The Golden Rule was presented by a myriad of Faiths, and it is just as true in each. Students who cannot abide by this simple tenet will be asked to leave the room, lose all participation points for the day, and *risk failing the course*.

-THE CLASSROOM WILL BE A SAFE-SPACE AT ALL TIMES-

And safe enough to explore precarious ideas.

TRIGGER WARNINGS:

This course will explore morally difficult themes.

- ❖ *There are subjects concerning human sexuality and gender norms prominent in some of the discussions and readings that may prove challenging.*
- ❖ *Certain ugly elements of racial intolerance are a necessary reality for covering the modern period*
- ❖ *Violence was, and is, a universal aspect of the human condition. Warfare and bloodshed play a role in some of the readings and viewed materials of this unit.*

A certain level of maturity is needed to deal with these facets of the religion. If for any reason a student feels uncomfortable about any material, it is imperative that they speak with the professor. There are counselors available if the student feels uncomfortable approaching the professor.

How to Seek Academic or Technical Support

Academic Support

- [Windward Community College Library](#)
- [Library eResources](#)
- [Ka Piko Writing Lab](#)
- [Ka Piko Speech Lab](#)
- [Ka Piko Math Lab](#)
- [Evening and Online Learning at Windward Community College](#)
- [STAR Balance](#)

Technical Support

- [UH ITS Help Desk](mailto:help@hawaii.edu) – email help@hawaii.edu or call 956-8883 (or 1-800-558-2669) for Lualima and most technology support. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Student Tech Support - email winhelp@hawaii.edu, call 808-235-7437, or stop by in person at Hale La‘akea 228. Available Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm.
- Lualima – Click on the [Request Assistance](#) link at the bottom of any Lualima Page to fill out and submit a question and get your answer via email.
- [Information Security for Students](#)

College Policies & Support Services

Disabilities Accommodations Statement

The Windward Community College’s Disability Student Services Office (WCC-DSSO) is committed to providing equal access to qualified students with disabilities.

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to participate fully in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor, Roy Inouye, to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. The Disabilities Counselor can be reached at 808-235-7448, wccdsso@hawaii.edu, or stop by the office (Hale Kako‘o 105) for more information.

Basic Needs

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see the [UH System Basic Needs website](#).

Mental Health Counseling

Mental Health and Wellness at Windward Community College counseling services and activities on campus to support students’ life goals as well as their academic goals. Information about services can be found at the [WCC Mental Health & Wellness website](#).

UH Alerts

The UH Alert emergency notification system alerts the university community in the event of a natural, health or civil emergency. The information you provide will only be used in the event of an emergency that impacts the health and safety of the UH community or the closure of whole campuses. It will not be shared with others or used for routine UH communications or announcements. To sign up, visit [UH Alerts website](#) for more information.

Financial Aid

If you are receiving financial aid and are contemplating not completing the course, BEFORE you withdraw, it is highly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office at 808-934-2712 or email them at wccfao@hawaii.edu to discuss the impact this decision may have on your financial aid eligibility.

Student Conduct Code

Windward Community College follows the University of Hawai'i Code of Student Conduct which defines expected conduct for students and specifies those acts subject to University sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct since, upon enrollment at Windward Community College, the student has placed herself/himself under the policies and regulations of the University and its duly constituted bodies. The disciplinary authority is exercised through the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Copies of the Student Conduct Code are available at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or [online](#).

Title IX - Sex Discrimination And Gender-Based Violence Resources

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Leslie Cabingabang, UH System Confidential Advocate
Phone/Text: (808) 348-0432 or (808) 341-4952
Email: advocate@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko'o 107 (Wednesdays)

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D., Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7468
Email: mozoa@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko'o 109

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource
Phone: (808) 235-7393
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale Kāko'o 101

Karen Cho, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (808) 235-7404
Email: kcho@hawaii.edu
Office: Hale 'Alaka'i 120

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to <https://www.hawaii.edu/titleix/>

