

MHC: 333

AMAZING STORIES: SCIENCE FICTION

THURSDAYS BY ZOOM
10:00 AM - 12:40 PM



This is a **NO TEXTBOOK** course -
all readings will either be provided,
be optional, or have free online
versions [See Manifold site link on
pg 3]

Professor: Brooke Thomas-Hollahan

Contact: bthomas1@gc.cuny.edu

Zoom Link:

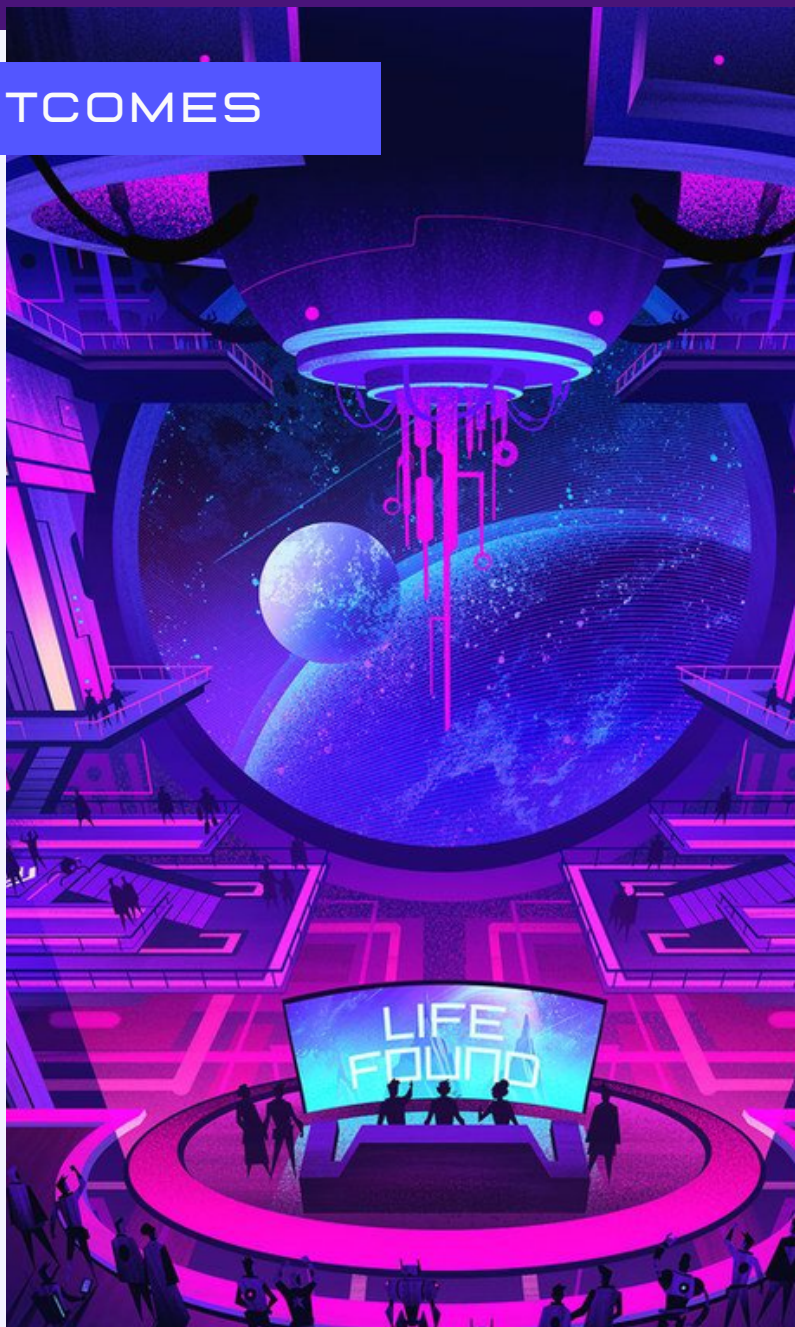
[https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/82513515050?
pwd=dwtLcOntYj8rBBjeToNYjXfrtOA4ST.1](https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/82513515050?pwd=dwtLcOntYj8rBBjeToNYjXfrtOA4ST.1)

COURSE GOALS

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This class introduces students to science-fiction literature through a critical lens by teaching literary analysis, critical thinking, and argument craft. It asks students to think more deeply about how these texts function as well as what possibilities and worlds they produce. By the end, students should be able to:

- interpret meaning in literary texts by paying close attention to authors' choices of detail, vocabulary, and style;
- discuss the relationship between text and genre across the different times and cultural environments from which they spring;
- articulate a critical evaluation and appreciation of a literary work's strengths and limitations;
- present your ideas orally;
- write critical essays employing:
 - strong claims;
 - well-chosen supporting evidence; and
 - appropriate textual citations



THIS IS AN ONLINE, SYNCHRONOUS CLASS

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION,
APPEARING VIA CAMERA, JOINING IN DISCUSSION, AND WORKING
IN GOOD FAITH

ASSIGNMENTS & STRUCTURE

PARTICIPATION

You must actively participate in class discussions and activities as well as use your camera to get an A

MIDTERM

Instead of a traditional exam, you will sign up to present on one text or topic for the course. This presentation will guide discussion

ARTICLE PROJECT

You will find and dissect your own scholarly source

GRADES

Participation: 20%
Assignments & Quizzes: 20%
Midterm: 15%
Article Project: 10%
Final: 20%

QUIZZES & IN-CLASS WORK

Assignments, blog posts & reading quizzes (if needed)

ANNOTATIONS

Annotation submissions in Manifold

FINAL

content TBD
you will choose your own text from outside the class readings

Manifold Site: <https://cuny.manifoldapp.org/projects/amazing-stories-in-science-fiction>

STUDENT WELLBEING

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

As we move through this semester, it is important to remember that we are a community. We, therefore, need to treat each other with respect, kindness, and generosity. In this class, we do not debate identities, we avoid insensitive language, and use each other's preferred pronouns. We must not only do this in our in-class discussions/activities but also in our work, our presentations, and any social time that occurs in this classroom. We also practice Generous Thinking, which asks us to start our work from a position of receptivity and listening to create the possibility of genuine understanding of our peers' ideas. We can achieve this through uplifting everyone's voices, mutual respect, and encouraging each other to share and creating a welcoming space for others to practice, think, and grow.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/ ACCOMODATIONS

Baruch College is committed to making individuals with disabilities full participants in the programs, services, and activities of the college community through compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] of 1990. It is the policy of Baruch College that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability will be denied access to any program, service, or activity offered by the university. Individuals with disabilities have a right to request accommodations. If you require any special assistance or accommodation, please contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at [646] 312-4590, and let your instructor know as soon as you can, ideally during the first three weeks of the semester. We encourage persons with disabilities or particular needs that impact course performance to meet with your instructor to co-design accommodations.

RESOURCES

You may wish to, and in some cases will be required to, make use of the following resources to help you in this course:

- **Newman Library**
 - **website** - <https://library.baruch.cuny.edu/>
 - **technology loan** - <https://library.baruch.cuny.edu/students/borrowing-library-materials/technology-loan-service/>
 - **research consultation** - <https://library.baruch.cuny.edu/help/schedule-a-research-consultation/>
- **Writing Center** - <https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/writingcenter/>
- **BCTC [tech support]** - <https://bctc.baruch.cuny.edu/services/>
- **Tutoring services [Student Academic Consulting Center]** - <https://sacc.baruch.cuny.edu/appointments/>
- **Student support services** - <https://studentaffairs.baruch.cuny.edu/counseling/>
- **Disability services** - <https://studentaffairs.baruch.cuny.edu/student-disability-services/>
- **Title IX info** - <https://president.baruch.cuny.edu/legal-labor-compliance/title-ix/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

9/4 - What is Sci-fi? What is genre?

9/10 - Premodern Worlds: The Blazing World Day 1

9/17 - The Blazing World Day 2

9/24 - Scifi Beginnings: Frankenstein Day 1

OCTOBER

10/1 - Frankenstein Day 2

10/8 - Frankenstein Day 3

10/15 - Frankenstein Day 4

10/22 - Frankenstein Day 5

10/29 - Scaring the Children: Butler's "Bloodchild" & Bradbury's "The Shape of Things"

NOVEMBER

11/6 - Weighty Questions: Asimov's "The Bicentennial Man" & "The Last Question"

11/12 - Strange Domesticity: Bradbury's "There Will Come Soft Rains" & Leithem's "The Spray"

11/19 - Omelas: LeGuin's "The One's Who Walk Away from Omelas" & Jemisin's "The One's Who Stay & Fight"

DECEMBER

12/3 - Final Project Work - OR - Final Presentations

12/10 - Final Presentations