TERM: Spring 2025
COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 4500: Creative Artistry
COURSE TITLE: Speculative Fiction
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 3:40-5:20 pm
INSTRUCTOR: Claire Stanford

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

What is speculative fiction? This much-debated term encompasses a whole world of writing, including science fiction, fantasy, magical realism, horror, alternate history, and stories where things are just a little bit weird in the world. In this course, we will read and discuss published work from each of these genres, try out different forms of speculative fiction with in-class and at-home writing exercises, and engage in a full-class workshop for your own piece of speculative fiction. We will look at worldbuilding, generic distinctions (and overlaps), genre tropes and how to subvert them, and more; we will also consider the sociopolitical stakes of speculative fiction and consider the ways that genre writing is not escapism but is in fact commenting on and responding to our contemporary world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To take intellectual and creative risks in writing, developing your own unique voice as a writer

- To develop skills of process-oriented writing and revision

- To practice giving and receiving constructive criticism

- To practice reading and responding critically to published texts

- To connect elements of fictional craft to the content of fictional work and consider the ways fiction responds to pressing issues of our contemporary world

- To create a collaborative space for creative experimentation and learning

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION: RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

Junior/Senior Only   N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

OLD CURRICULUM   NEW CURRICULUM

☐ GENRES (LD)   ☐ DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)

☐ HISTORIES (LD)   ☐ HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)

☐ AUTHORS (UD)   ☐ READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)

☐ CRITICAL/THEORETICAL (UD)   ☐ THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)

☐ COMPARATIVE (UD)   ☐ PRE-1800 (UD)

☒ CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)   ☒ CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)

                                                            ☐ RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)

                                                            ☐ UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)

CORE ATTRIBUTES: ☐ 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)

N/A