

T CORE 124 B: Introduction To Humanities

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T CORE 124 B: Intro to the Humanities

Mr. Robot

Winter 2016

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 11:00 am - 12:20 pm

Location: GWP 101

Instructor: Dr. Ariel Wetzel

Email: arielw@uw.edu

(mailto:arielw@uw.edu) Office: GWP 412

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30

Office Phone: 253-692-4978

Course Description

We will watch the first season of the television series *Mr. Robot* (2015) in order to consider how the series is a contemporary work of cyberpunk. Cyberpunk is sub-genre of science fiction that often follows the format of classic detective fiction, with the addition of technological themes: hackers fighting mega-corporations, post-industrial dystopian society, the low-life side of a high-tech society, and the impact of cybernetics and information technology. We will read and watch other works of cyberpunk, such as William Gibson and *Blade Runner*, to better understand *Mr. Robot* and why it is not set in the future, but the present day. Are we now living in the dystopian future depicted by classic cyberpunk? Does science fiction still need to take place in the future? Students new to science fiction are encouraged to enroll.

Core

The Core program consists of a coordinated series of courses that represent the various disciplines in the university. This course, along with the others in your cohort, fulfills one of the university's general education requirements in each of the areas of knowledge plus composition. The courses are designed to both support and challenge you to develop the critical thinking, writing, research, and analytical skills you'll need at UWT while introducing you to relevant topics in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.

Core Student Learning Goals

- inquiry & problem solving: collect, evaluate, and analyze information and resources to solve problems or answer questions.
- analysis: identify, analyze, and summarize/represent the key elements of a text.
- synthesis & context: make meaningful connections among assignments and readings in order to develop a sense of the 'big picture.'
- global perspective: interact with concepts, ideas, and processes related to the interdependences between personal, local, and global relationships.
- diversity: think outside of cultural norms and values, including their own perspectives, to critically engage the larger world.

Required Texts & Materials

Mr. Robot Season 1 (purchase the DVD series or digital access)

Neuromancer by William Gibson

Blade Runner

Ghost in the Shell

Fight Club

The Matrix

You may purchase a print copy of *Neuromancer* at the University Bookstore or borrow it from the course reserve desk at Tioga Library. You are welcome to use ebooks.

Some readings listed on the calendar will be PDFs or linked online. You must bring these electronic readings to class either printed-out or on a laptop or ebook reader.

Assigned films and television episodes you are required to watch at home unless otherwise noted. You may rent these on iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon. Some are available on Netflix, Hulu Plus, or Amazon Prime streaming. If you do not wish to pay for rentals, most of the films and episodes will be on reserve in the library for you to borrow.

Note that the readings and films contain mature content.

Assignments & Grading

Short Essays 45% (15% each)

Analytical Summary

Synthesis

Mr. Robot as Cyberpunk Essay

Participation 10%

Learning from each other and class discussion is a major component of our class, so I expect you to be an active, engaged class member. You should come to

class on time, having done that day's assigned reading, and should speak up in large group discussions at least once per class period. You should also be an active participant in small group discussions.

Discussion Board Posts 10%

To prepare for class each day, you are required to either post or respond to another student on our Canvas [discussion board](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046607/discussion_topics) (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046607/discussion_topics). The post will be on that day's reading/viewing, and it is due **before class** (11:00 am at the latest). I do not accept these late, but I allow you to miss one discussion board post without penalty. Please see the [prompt](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046607/pages/discussion-board-guidelines) (<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046607/pages/discussion-board-guidelines>) for more information.

Peer Review 5%

We will conduct peer review for some of your graded essays so that you may get additional feedback on your writing, and see how your classmates make sense of course materials.

Revised Essays + Reflection 30%

Office Hours

If you are unable to make my scheduled office hours, you may make an appointment with me at a mutually agreeable time. I am on campus every weekday. Students who take advantage of office hours tend to write stronger papers than those who do not. I am also happy to talk about the readings during office hours.

Accommodations

Please contact the DDS to request academic accommodations for a temporary or permanent disability: http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm (http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm). After you've made arrangements with DDS, please make an appointment with me to discuss how we can best support your learning in this class. I am happy to work with you on accommodations, but I expect self-advocacy and I am unable to retroactively provide accommodations.

Absences and Late Work Policies

When you miss class, you miss learning opportunities that cannot be replicated at home. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, and you are still accountable for the learning done that day. Please take care that you do not schedule work or other commitments during our class periods.

Discussion board posts will not be accepted late. Please turn them in early if you have a schedule conflict. Peer review cannot be made up or done outside of class.

I do accept essays late, at the penalty of 5% per day late. I do not give written feedback on late papers, so you must come to office hours to receive feedback on late work.

If your childcare falls through, you may bring your children to class, so long as they aren't disruptive to the learning environment. Note that some course content may not be appropriate for children, so please use your discretion.

Technology Policies

I allow laptops, ebook readers, and tablets to be used during class for note-taking and referencing electronic materials *only*. Cell phones must stay put away for the duration of class. You may not use your cell phone as an ebook reader or to take pictures of notes.

As I find misuse of technology detracts from the classroom learning community, use of phones and misuse of computers in class may hurt your participation grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else's ideas or writing as your own. You are encouraged to refer to other people's thoughts and writing, as long as you cite them. Note that plagiarism includes both a failure to cite sources *and* presenting someone else's words as your own when you do include a citation. This includes copying and pasting portions of another writer's sentence into your essay without including quotation marks *and* a citation. Most students don't mean to plagiarize, and do so by failing to understand what constitutes plagiarism. I take 10% off papers that have minor instances of plagiarism. If I suspect you have intentionally plagiarized on a larger scale (such as submitting large portions of an essay you did not write yourself), I will report you to the university for disciplinary review.

Email & Grade Discussion

Please email me from your UW email address rather than your personal email address. I am happy to discuss a grade with you in person during office hours, but I legally cannot discuss grades with you over email because email is not a private communication medium. Note that emails to teachers should be courteous, note which class you are in, and clearly state your purpose for writing.

Teaching and Learning Center

You are encouraged to meet with the Writing Consultants at the Teaching Learning Center for assistance on your essays. See <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/tlc/> (<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/tlc/>)

Library

The library is where you can locate our course reserves, as well as all manner of books, music, DVDs, and academic journals. In addition to Justin Wadland, our popular culture/media librarian, all library staff can help you with research, quiet study spaces, group study rooms, computers, and printers, etc.

<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/library/> (<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/library/>)

Veteran and Military Services Services: <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/uwt/veteran-military-services> (<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/uwt/veteran-military-services>)

Inclement Weather Info: <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/security/alert/students.cfm> (<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/security/alert/students.cfm>)

About Me

I earned my doctoral degree in English literature at University of Washington in 2014, where I specialized science fiction, gender studies, and contemporary American literature. At UW Seattle and other local colleges, I taught writing and literature courses on topics such as cyborgs, working class literature, warrior women, and gender & sexuality in science fiction. When I am not working, my hobbies include watching science fiction television, practicing martial arts, and volunteering with a local parrot rescue.

Calendar

This calendar is subject to revision. Readings and are due on the date assigned. Episodes and films should be viewed at home before class unless otherwise noted. You are responsible for accessing these texts by purchasing/renting your own copies, or using the library reserve copies. That said, please do tell me if you have trouble accessing any reading/viewings, and I will do my best to help you. However, I do not excuse missed work because you could not find the reading.

Date	Details	
Mon Mar 28, 2016	First Day (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=884791&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed Mar 30, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 1. Read: What is Cyberpunk (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887510&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Mr. Robot Episode 1 & What is Cyberpunk Discussion (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046608/assignments/3231363)	due by 11am
Fri Apr 1, 2016	Read: Metamorphoses of Science Fiction Excerpt (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887511&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Metamorphoses of Science Fiction (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046608/assignments/3231650)	due by 11am
Mon Apr 4, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 2 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887512&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Mr. Robot Episode 2 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046608/assignments/3231654)	due by 11am
Wed Apr 6, 2016	Watch: Blade Runner (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887524&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Blade Runner Discussion Board Post (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046608/assignments/3247475)	due by 11am
Fri Apr 8, 2016	Guest speaker (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=892272&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Read: Neuromancer (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887544&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon Apr 11, 2016	Read: Neuromancer (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887515&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed Apr 13, 2016	Read: Neuromancer (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887513&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri Apr 15, 2016	Read: Neuromancer (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887540&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon Apr 18, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 3 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887526&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed Apr 20, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 4 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887530&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri Apr 22, 2016	Peer Review (Online - No Class) (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887541&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am

Mon Apr 25, 2016	Essay Due (No Class) (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887542&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed Apr 27, 2016	Watch: Ghost in the Shell (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887538&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri Apr 29, 2016	Watch: The Matrix (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887539&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon May 2, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 5 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887531&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed May 4, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 6 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887532&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri May 6, 2016	Woman on the Edge of Time (PDF) (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887525&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon May 9, 2016	Watch: Mr. Robot Episode 7 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887533&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed May 11, 2016	Mr. Robot Episode 8 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887534&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri May 13, 2016	Peer Review (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890119&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon May 16, 2016	Essay Due (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890120&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed May 18, 2016	Mr. Robot Episode 9 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887535&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri May 20, 2016	Watch: Fight Club (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887537&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon May 23, 2016	Mr. Robot Episode 10 (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887536&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed May 25, 2016	Read: Reinventing Cyberpunk (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=887529&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri May 27, 2016	Peer Review (In Class) (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890117&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Mon May 30, 2016	Essay Due (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890118&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Memorial Day (No Class) (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890114&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Wed Jun 1, 2016	Review (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890116&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
Fri Jun 3, 2016	Final Peer Review (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=890115&include_contexts=course_1046608)	12am
	Week 1 Participation (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1046608/assignments/3249804)	