

COURSE OUTLINE

FILM-217

The History of Science Fiction Film

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Science fiction movies have entertained us, frightened us, and made us think of all kinds of possible problems and opportunities in the universe. This course will look at the history of such films and will include some of the underlying themes about society and politics. We will watch, discuss, and research some of the most serious – and some of the silliest – sci-fi films produced. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as HIST-217.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Establish a definition of science fiction.
2. Identify running themes in science fiction films.
3. Place science fiction films into the context of the culture, politics and values of the times in which they were produced.
4. Discuss the directors' use of mise-en-scène and revolutionary camera angles.
5. Analyze some of the editing techniques used in classic science fiction films.
6. Distinguish different cinematic styles and genres developed over the span of science fiction films.
7. Compare and contrast key elements in film authorship, genre, ideology and theory.

Major Topics

- I. Future civilizations and lost civilizations
- II. Space travel
- III. Extra-terrestrial invasions/monsters
- IV. Extra-terrestrial visitors
- V. Terrestrial monsters
- VI. Science as the answer vs. science out of control
- VII. Mad scientists and naïve scientists
- VIII. Heroes
 - a. the scientist
 - b. the military

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member.

Other Course Information

This course is an Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and Humanities Elective.