WINTER 2019

SALI 497: Salish Sea Studies Community Seminar (1 credit)
CRN: 40972
Instructor: Natalie Baloy

A weekly opportunity for students to come together around a shared interest in the Salish Sea region. We engage in place-based and experiential learning, read regional texts, and participate in the development of Salish Sea Studies as a field of inquiry.

ENG 110: Science Fiction & Social Change (2 credits)
CRN: 11905
Instructor: Lysa Rivera

These days, science fiction means more than robots, time-travel, space-ships, and aliens, and people of color. Science fiction represents a safe space to interrogate, critique, and ultimately transform political, social, and economic oppression and adversity. For an example of this power, we need only look to the life and work of the late Octavia Butler – the first science fiction writer to win the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Award. A black woman who grew up working-class in a single-parent home, Butler wrote about life’s greatest adversities, specifically within the context of the racially oppressed. Yet, although her science fiction was often mired in dystopia, it also offered glimmers of hope, narratives of resilience, and stories of survival and overcoming. In their introduction to Octavia’s Brood, a collection of 14 short stories we will read for this class, editors Adrienne Maree Brown and Walidah Imarisha argue that the very act of resistance is in and of itself acts of speculative fiction. Working with a variety of contemporary short-stories, this 2-credit seminar explores both how and why this claim rings true, especially in the minds of people of color. Work directly with Walidah Imarisha, editor of Octavia’s Brood, in this course.

EDUC 197: Octavia’s Cinema: The Science Fiction of Film: “Alien Perspectives” (1 credit)
CRN: TBD
Instructor: Susanne Seales

Working around the foundational theme for the Winter screenings for Octavia’s Cinema: “Alien Perspectives”, this course will help broaden students’ understanding of the intersectional and visionary themes of social justice as presented in the realms of sci-fi presented in the 2018-19 Western Reads selection- Octavia’s Brood- and as such, it is advisable to pick up a free copy for reading during Winter break. Above all, we as a group will endeavor to keep the wisdom of Octavia Butler in our hearts and minds at each step of the way during this cinematic journey, remembering that in the end, we all have the potential to shape a destiny that dreams and “takes root among the stars”. Watch 3 sci-fi films & engage in post-film dialogues as part of the course! This course is pass/fail.

SPRING 2019

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Instructor: Natalie Baloy

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ENVS 499D: Environmental Justice Book Group (1 credit)
CRN: 23740
Instructor: Kate Darby

Interested in exploring the intersections of social justice and the environment? Want to explore creative possibilities for a more just future? Looking for a way to connect with other students who care about social justice and the environment? In this student-led seminar, we will read and explore Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower, a science fiction novel describing a place-based and experiential learning, read regional texts, and participate in the development of Salish Sea Studies as a field of inquiry.

EDUC 197: Octavia’s Cinema: The Science Fiction of Film: “Visionary Worlds” (1 credit)
CRN: TBD
Instructor: Susanne Seales

Working around the foundational theme for the Spring screenings for Octavia’s Cinema: “Visionary Worlds”, this course will help broaden students’ understanding of the intersectional and visionary themes of social justice as presented in the realms of sci-fi presented in the 2018-19 Western Reads selection- Octavia’s Brood- and as such, it is advisable to pick up a free copy for reading during winter break. Above all, we as a group will endeavor to keep the wisdom of Octavia Butler in our hearts and minds at each step of the way during this cinematic journey, remembering that in the end, we all have the potential to shape a destiny that dreams and “takes root among the stars”. Watch 3 sci-fi films & engage in post-film dialogues as part of the course! This course is pass/fail.