

AC – 20/05/2025

Item No. – 5.50 (N) Sem-IV 2(h)

As Per NEP 2020

University of Mumbai



Syllabus for Basket of OE Vertical 3

Faculty of Humanities

Board of Studies in English

Second Year Programme

Semester

IV

Title of Paper

Credits

IV) Science Fiction

4

From the Academic Year

2025-26

Title of Paper: Science Fiction

Sr. No.	Heading	Particulars
1	Description of the course:	Science and literature, though often viewed as distinct fields, are deeply interconnected- both rooted in curiosity. While science is driven by experimentation and discovery, literature emerges from imagination and speculation. Both seek to explore causes, effects, and the nature of reality, making their relationship indissoluble. This course introduces Science Fiction as a genre that mirrors societal transformations, evokes wonder, and fosters dialogue between literature and science. Designed for non-literature students, it aims to spark curiosity, offering insights into the evolving relationship between scientific advancements and storytelling.
2	Vertical:	Open Elective
3	Type:	Theory
4	Credit:	4 credits (1 credit = 15 Hours for Theory in a semester)
5	Hours Allotted:	60 Hours
6	Marks Allotted:	100 Marks
7	Course Objectives: 1. To examine the relationship between literature and science, emphasizing their shared foundations in curiosity, inquiry, and exploration. 2. To introduce learners to Science Fiction as a literary genre, familiarizing them with its key elements, themes, and narrative techniques. 3. To develop analytical skills by engaging with the forms, tropes, and speculative aspects of Science Fiction. 4. To encourage critical reflection on the ethical, social, and technological implications of scientific advancements as explored in Science Fiction texts.	
8	Course Outcomes: Learners will be able to: 1. Analyze the interplay between science and literature and its relevance in contemporary academic and cultural discourse. 2. Identify and interpret the defining characteristics, themes, and narrative techniques of Science Fiction as a literary genre. 3. Critically analyze Science Fiction texts in relation to their socio-political, ethical, and technological contexts. 4. Connect insights from Science Fiction literature to engage with contemporary debates on scientific progress, utopian and dystopian visions, and the future of humanity.	

9.	Module 1: The Making of Sci-Fi: Origins and Influences (15 Lectures)
	1. A Brief History of Science Fiction 2. The Relationship between Science and Literature 3. Science Fiction of Today is the Science of Tomorrow 4. Elements of Science Fiction (futuristic settings, advanced technology, speculative world-building, encounters with the unknown, ethical dilemmas etc.) 5. Types of Science Fiction (Cyberpunk, Apocalypse and Post-Apocalypse, Space Opera, Time travel, Extraterrestrial Sci-Fi, Artificial Intelligence etc.)
	Module 2: Sci-Fi Through Novellas (15 Lectures)
	1. Robert Louis Stevenson: <i>Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> (1886) OR 2. H. G. Wells: <i>The Invisible Man</i> (1897)
	Module 3: Cinematic Visions of Sci-Fi (15 Lectures)
	1. <i>Avatar</i> (2009) OR 2. <i>Interstellar</i> (2014)
	Module 4: Exploring Sci-Fi Through Short Fiction (15 Lectures)
	1. Ray Douglas Bradbury: "A Sound of Thunder" 2. Manjula Padmanabhan: "The Pain Merchant" 3. Ursula Kroeber Le Guin: "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" 4. Subodh Jawdekar: "A Journey into Darkness"
10	Text Books: NA
11	Reference Books and Films: 1. Bradbury, Ray Douglas. <i>The Stories of Ray Bradbury</i>. Alfred A. Knopf, 1980. (Includes "A Sound of Thunder"). 2. Cameron, James, director. <i>Avatar</i>. 20th Century Fox, 2009. https://www.hotstar.com/in/movies/avatar/1770000948 3. Le Guin, Ursula Kroeber. <i>The Wind's Twelve Quarters</i>. Harper & Row, 1975. (Includes "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"). 4. Nolan, Christopher, director. <i>Interstellar</i>. Warner Bros., 2014. <i>Amazon Prime Video</i>. https://www.amazon.com/Interstellar-Matthew-McConaughey/dp/B00TU9UFTS 5. Padmanabhan, Manjula. <i>Unprincess</i>. Scholastic India, 2005. (Includes "The Pain Merchant") 6. Phondke, Bal, editor. <i>It Happened Tomorrow</i>. National Book Trust, 1993. (Includes Subodh Jawdekar's "A Journey into Darkness")

	7. Stevenson, Robert Louis. <i>Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i>. 1886. Penguin Classics, 2003. 8. Wells, H. G. <i>The Invisible Man</i>. 1897. Oxford World's Classics, 2009. Easton, Thomas A., and Judith K. Dial, editors. <i>Vision of Tomorrow: Science Fiction Predictions that Came True</i>. A Herman Graf Book, Skyhouse Publishing, Canada, 2010. 9. Miller, Ron. <i>The History of Science Fiction</i>. Franklin Watts, Canada, 2001. 10. Roberts, Adam. <i>Science Fiction</i>. Routledge, London, 2000. Web Sources: 11. "Science Fiction Predictions That Became Reality." <i>Popular Science</i>, https://www.popsci.com/predictions-sci-fi-writers-got-right/. 12. "How Science Fiction Ideas Influenced Real Scientific Breakthroughs." <i>Space.com</i>, https://www.space.com/science-fiction-turned-reality.html. 13. "South Asian Science Fiction and Speculative Literature." <i>Kalpabiswa</i>, https://kalpabiswa.in/article/y7n1a25.	
12	Internal Continuous Assessment: 40%	External, Semester End Examination
	Individual Passing in Internal and External Examination: 40%	
13	Continuous Evaluation through: • Attendance and Classroom Participation: 10 Marks • Class Test: 10 Marks • Written Assignment: 20 Marks Suggestions for continuous assessment: Quizzes, book reviews, Sci-Fi movie/ web series reviews, a presentation, creative writing, etc.	
14	Format of Question Paper: For the Semester End Examination (Total Marks 60) Question 1: (on Module 1) (a) Short Notes (3 out of 5) (in 150-200 words each) 15 Marks Or (b) Long Answer Question (1 out of 2) (in 500-600 words) 15 Marks Question 2: (on Module 2) (c) Short Notes (3 out of 4) (in 150-200 words each) 15 Marks Or (d) Long Answer Question (1 out of 2) (in 500-600 words) 15 Marks Question 3: (on Module 3) (a) Short Notes (3 out of 4) (in 150-200 words each) 15 Marks Or (b) Long Answer Question (1 out of 2) (in 500-600 words) 15 Marks	

	Question 4: (on Module 4) (a) Short Notes (3 out of 4) (in 150-200 words each) Or (b) Long Answer Question (1 out of 2) (in 500-600 words)	15 Marks 15 Marks
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