I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 227      Science Fiction

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal:  Semester: Fall   Year: 2014

D. Sponsoring Department:  English

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 3                     Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0

G. Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I

H. Laboratory Fees:  None

I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair: Barbara Bretcko, bbretcko@raritanval.edu.

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite (s): ENGL 111 English Composition I  This course is a survey of the science fiction genre from literary and theoretical points of views. The course will draw upon stories, novels, films, and / or graphic novels that call attention to the genre’s focus on examining the cultural impact of scientific and technological progress and on examining how science fictional settings provide new ways to interrogate existing social attitudes and structures.

III. Statement of Course Need

Science Fiction provides students with the opportunity to study a specific literary genre. It is a course typically featured in college English departments and meets an elective requirement of the English Department’s Associate of Arts degree in English. The course transfers to a four-year program as an English elective or a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
A. Free Elective
B. This course meets a genre-based elective requirement in the English AA degree.
C. To see course transferability; a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content (Authors and plays in parentheses are possibilities for study.)

A. Introduction to the genre: Science Fiction as Speculative Fiction.
B. Historical Overview of major movements in Science Fiction (19th century origins, the Golden Age of Sci-Fi Pulps and Magazines, the New Wave, Cyber-Punk, Steampunk, etc.).
C. Technology and its discontents.
D. Philosophical and / or theoretical approaches to science fiction.

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes: At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
   1. Analyze science fiction texts in their literary, historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, *)
   2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing using appropriate literary terminology (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
   3. Distinguish among and assess commonly accepted approaches and criteria for analyzing science fiction works (GE-NJ 6, * )

   (*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes: At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
   1. Explain key characteristics of the historical periods of science fiction
   2. Appraise cultural values reflected in science fiction
   3. Analyze the impact of technology on contemporary culture as envisioned by science fiction authors

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work
C. student oral presentations
D. simulation/role playing
E. student collaboration
F. independent study
G. examination of films

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments
A. exams  
B. in-class formal and informal writing  
C. demonstrations or presentations  
D. essays  
E. journals  
F. research papers  
G. group projects  
H. class participation  

IX. Grade Determinants  
A. exams  
B. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar, mechanics and the finer points of style  
C. demonstrations or presentations  
D. projects  
E. class participation  

X. Texts and Materials  
A. textbooks  
B. primary sources  
C. student writing  
D. film and video  
E. audio sources  
F. web sources  

Possible textbooks:  
A. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
B. *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells  
C. *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
D. *1984* by George Orwell  
E. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick  
F. *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin  
G. *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card  
H. *Neuromancer* by William Gibson  
I. *Science Fiction: Stories and Contexts*. Ed. Heather Masri  
J. *Visions of Tomorrow*. Eds. Thomas A. Easton and Judith K. Dial  
M. *The Science Fiction Century*. Ed. David G. Hartwell  

Possible Films:
A. *Blade Runner*; Director Ridley Scott, 1982.

(Please Note: This course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

**XI. Resources**

A. Smart classroom
B. DVDs