

Time Travel, Alternate Histories, and Parallel Worlds:

An Examination of Temporality in Science Fiction and Fantasy

English 257

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

SECTION: 001

MWF 2:30 - 3:20 PM

CLARK HALL || ROOM **317**



From Doc Brown's flying DeLorean in the '80s classic *Back to the Future* to Hermione Granger's time-turner in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, science fiction and fantasy works often explore the significance of time. Whether it's seeing the future and traveling to the past, portrayals of worlds where small (or not so small) changes to established history cause major consequences, or depictions of self-contained alternate realities that coexist with our own, the manipulation of time is a mainstay of the science fiction and fantasy genres.

In this class, our critical discussions will revolve around how we use fiction, film, and culture to (re)imagine both the future and the past in order to gain a better understanding of what our science fiction and fantasies reveal about our present ideas, beliefs, and hopes for the future. Keep in mind that due to the nature and themes of some science fiction and fantasy content, this course may not be for everyone.

Potential Films/Media

- *Paper Girls* (2022)
- *Archive 81* (2022)
- *Russian Doll* (2019-Present)
- *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004)
- *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (2022)
- *Back to the Future* (1985)
- *For All Mankind* (2019-Present)
- *The Man in the High Castle* (2015-2019)
- *His Dark Materials* (2019-Present)
- *Westworld* (2016-Present)
- *Stranger Things* (2016-Present)

Potential Readings

- *The Time Machine* – H.G. Wells
- *Kindred* – Octavia Butler
- *Never Let Me Go* - Kazuo Ishiguro
- *The Golden Compass* – Philip Pullman

