

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ENG 245 CCF: SCIENCE FICTION—FALL 2025

DR. HAROLD WILLIAM HALBERT

MW: 10:10 AM to 11:35 PM, Parkhouse Hall 343

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Montgomery County
Community College

Email:

hhalbert@mc3.edu or
hhalbert@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Blue Bell: Parkhouse 441
MW 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Pottstown: South Hall 228, Cubicle G
TTh: 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM

Additional appointments can be schedule individually via email request. I can do online office hours as well.

Writing Center Hours:

Blue Bell Campus:
MW 1:00 PM to 2:00
PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This survey course introduces students to the genre of science fiction and its unique ability to examine cultural issues by placing them outside reality. The speculative nature of the genre allows writers to explore the future, alternate histories, and scientific, moral, and political controversies. Starting with early historical works, the course surveys mainstream science fiction and major literary science fiction works.

PREREQUISITES:

Students may take this course after completing the composition requirement of their curriculum.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:		

1. Discuss characteristics of literature that impact enjoyment of reading.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
2. Verbalize an increase in his/her self-awareness, through a development of their critical abilities.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Discuss the relationship between the past and contemporary societal views in literature.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
4. Analyze examples of literature for excellence.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments

5. Describe how science fiction has influenced and been influenced by the currents of feeling that have produced “Mainstream” literature.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments
6. Inspect the vitality and validity of science fiction as a literary and philosophical genre by discussing the nature of plot, character, scene and effect.	Lecture Discussion Group Analysis of Texts AV Presentation Writing of Papers In-Class Exercises and Presentations Textual Analysis Both Oral and in Essay Assigned Readings	Written Assignments

COURSE CONTENT

My courses are designed to deal with adult issues often centering on controversial cultural and historical conflicts. At times, the class readings, lectures, and discussions may question ideas or beliefs that individual students hold dear. In addition, the language used in the course may range from highly technical jargon to the vernacular, including profanity. Students who wish to avoid such a classroom environment should seek another section of the course.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Various Texts located in Canvas in the “Readings” section of our class page.
- *The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu ISBN: 978-0-7654-8203-0
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood ISBN: 9780385490818
- *Watchmen* by Allan Moore and Dave Gibbons ISBN-10: 093028923
- *1984* by George Orwell (Plume; Centennial edition (May 6, 2003)) ISBN-10: 0452284236
- *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams ISBN-10: 0345391802
- Post-It Brand book marking tabs
- Access to the MLA Style Guide with the 2009 Update

English 245 will be one of the more challenging courses of your academic career because it moves quickly, requires a wide range of academic skills, and demands more time than the average course. In addition to an intensive reading load (with reading

checks to document your marginalia), each student will write two major papers (a literary interpretation and a research paper), prepare two exam guides, take a mid-term and final exam, develop an annotated bibliography, and use the discussion board extensively to post drafts and comments on readings. A breakdown of the assignments and relative point values is as follows:

Final drafts of papers	200 points each
Exams	100 points each
In-class essays	50 points each
Annotated bibliographies	50 points
Quotation assignments	20 points each
Scholarly Article Analysis Project	20 points
Individual drafts of papers	0-20 points, depending on completeness
Two-minute Presentation	10 points
Required emails and posts	-5 points if not completed
Reading checks	5 points per day's worth of reading unless otherwise noted.

Various minor assignments with individual grade points possible may also be assigned. Your grade is calculated by adding the total points earned and then dividing them by the total points possible. That average will then be plugged into the college's grading scale.

GRADED DESIGNATIONS			INSTITUTIONAL GRADING SCALE	
GRADES	QUALITY POINTS	DEFINITION	GRADES	NUMERICAL EQUIVALENCIES
A	4.00	SURPASSES EXPECTATIONS	A	93-100
A-	3.67		A-	90-92
B+	3.33	ABOVE EXPECTATIONS	B+	87-89
B	3.00		B	83-86
B-	2.67		B-	80-82
C+	2.33	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	C+	77-79
C	2.00		C	70-76

D	1.00	BELOW EXPECTATIONS	D	60-69
F	0.00	ACADEMIC FAILURE	F	0-59
XF	0.00	ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT	XF	0.00

Be advised that *you must complete all major papers and in-class essays in order to pass the course*. Even if your paper is too late to be accepted under the late work policies, it must be completed by the end of the semester. If it is not, then you will automatically fail for the course, regardless of what your point total is.

Mid-term and final exams will be given in-person and by hand without assistive technologies on the assigned dates unless a student has an accommodation letter from the College.

MAJOR PAPER REWRITE OPTION

In order to allow students to benefit from the three-step writing process and to turn in the best possible work for evaluation, students will be permitted to revise the first graded major paper in the course for an entirely new grade provided the assignment/essay was handed in on time and without plagiarism. Late or plagiarized papers are ineligible for revision.

Note: Just turning in a revision does not guarantee you will receive a higher grade. In the event that the revised draft grade is actually lower than the original assignment, you will receive the higher of the two grades; however, a higher revision grade always replaces the original grade, so if you are prepared to work hard, your grade will most likely benefit. [See the class web page for more information on the major paper rewrite.](#) Please see the class web page's assignments section for more explicit details.

TURNING IN ROUGH DRAFTS

For each major paper, we will write a complete rough draft and then a final draft. Each draft needs to be uploaded to the Discussion Board in Canvas with the paper both copied and pasted AND attached as a file. One purpose of this upload is to create a backup file of your paper should your computer/storage device crash. The other is so that you can read the works of others to see other approaches to the same writing task you are facing. In-person classes also requires a printed copy for others to read. While stealing the words or ideas of others in the class will result in a plagiarism charge, stealing someone's style or rhetorical moves isn't: most strong writers at some point have looked at the works of others as guides on how to write.

TURNING IN MAJOR PAPERS

When the final draft of a major paper is due, you will need to submit it to two locations in our Canvas site:

- Submit the paper to the appropriate Assignment on Canvas as either an MS Word file. When required, a works cited page should be included in the same file. ***This file is what will actually be graded, so make sure it matches the same final version that you submitted in hardcopy.*** You must submit the paper to Turnitin.com as well: papers not submitted to Turnitin.com will be given a zero.
- Post a copy to the discussion board in the "Final Draft" topic for that paper.

I will mark the first paper extensively for two reasons: to give you clear guidance should you choose to submit the [optional major paper rewrite](#) and for you to use as a guide on what to improve in subsequent drafts. The final paper will not receive any written comments unless you explicitly request it since they will be submitted at the end of the semester.

EMAIL AND COMMUNICATION WITH DR. HALBERT

While I have an office phone, the best way to communicate with me is via email. I am generally quick to respond, but please be advised that I may take up to 48-hours to respond during the semester (and longer during breaks). I generally do not answer emails after 5PM because of family obligations, so 1 AM messages the night before a paper is due will normally not get a response before class. My expectation is that you will check your email each day, particularly between the final class meeting and the posting of grades. I will not spam the class with non-class related materials, so if you get a message from me, please consider it important and respond if needed.

Each student is responsible for checking their MC3 email accounts at least every other day during the semester. During the last week of class, reading day, and the entire final exam period (until Dr. Halbert announces that final grades have been posted), students should check their email every day in order to make sure there are no issues or concerns about your grade that need to be addressed. Failure to check your email may negatively affect your grade because messages about the class generally are generally important information about assignments.

COLLEGE POLICIES

All [College Policies](#) must be followed and are a binding part of this syllabus. Of particular note are the [Student Code of Conduct](#) (which deals largely with behavior) and the [Student Academic Code of Ethics](#) (which deals with academic honesty issues). You are also responsible for the [Acceptable Use of Technology policy](#).

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Plagiarism constitutes a serious breach of academic honesty and will not be tolerated. Unless I deem an act of plagiarism or cheating an honest mistake, I routinely assign students an "F" in the course for any act of academic dishonesty without the option of withdrawing from the course. Especially egregious acts will receive an "FX" with an additional notation of academic misconduct on the student's transcript. Please note that submitting work from another class as original work for this course constitutes academic dishonesty. For a full discussion of the Academic Honesty policies, please see the [Student Academic Code of Ethics policy](#).

For this class, plagiarism or cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Copying and/or pasting materials from another source word-for-word without quotation marks and a citation, no matter how small the amount of text.
- Using someone's ideas, data, or facts without attributing the source.
- Buying a paper, whole or in part, from an individual, organization, or web site and presenting it as your own work.
- Receiving a free paper whole or in part, from an individual, organization, or web site and presenting it as your own work.
- Getting a friend, stranger, family member, lover, enemy, or any other person to rewrite sections of your paper.
- **Using any material generated by an artificial intelligence (A.I.) service in your assignments or personal communications with your professor.**
- Submitting a paper written for another course, even if you wrote it.
- Lying to your professor.
- Writing or rewriting papers for your classmates outside of the context of a peer review.

Reading Checks:

Each time a reading or film is assigned, you will need to show that you read it by presenting your annotations to the text. You can do this using any combination of the following techniques, either on hard copy or a digital copy:

- Marking the actual text (underlining, highlighting, marginal notes, etc.)
- Taking notes on Post-its and placing them on the actual page of the text. Digital notes in the text are also a good approach.
- Taking notes separately on paper or in a text file that include page number references to the text if the text has page numbers. Please note: *AI generated notes or summaries are not acceptable.*
- Notes about films will need to be done by hand. Generally, two to four pages of notes are expected for a film. You may wish to include timestamps for key scenes.

These annotations serve four purposes:

- They prove you actually read the text, which is a necessity in an English course.
- They will help you to identify and retain key ideas and details from the text for class discussion.
- They will allow you to find key passages should you choose to write one of your papers about the text.

- They will make studying for exams easier.

GRADE APPEAL

In the interest of due process, the College provides an appeal process for a student who believes that a recorded final grade does not accurately reflect his/her academic performance in a course due to issuance of an arbitrary grade, inconsistent grading practice, or mechanical error. The policy and procedure is found [at https://www.mc3.edu/about-mccc/policies-and-procedures/grade-appeal](https://www.mc3.edu/about-mccc/policies-and-procedures/grade-appeal).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to guide students to understand their responsibilities in regard to appropriate behavior and respect for others in the college community. The policy addresses classroom disruptions and removal from the classroom for behavioral issues. It also provides the standards for ensuring the College provides due process to students through the judicial process. Please see the [Student Code of Conduct policies and procedures for more information](#).

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) welcomes qualified students with disabilities and endorses the principles of nondiscrimination and reasonable accommodation as described in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To see if you are eligible for services and reasonable accommodations in this course please review the policy on the Disabilities web site at <https://www.mc3.edu/about-mccc/policies-and-procedures/students-with-disabilities>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. At the start of the semester, each student will receive 12 points of extra credit for attendance. Points lost for tardiness or absences will initially be taken from this pool of points, giving students the flexibility to miss two classes without injury to their grades. Each absence will subtract five points from a student's total points scored for the semester. Each late arrival will subtract two points from the total points scored. A point will be awarded for each class attended. If a student knows he or she will miss a class, that student should alert Dr. Halbert beforehand. Students arriving after attendance is taken will be marked tardy. If you arrive late, please wait until the end of class to make sure Dr. Halbert did not mark you absence: it is your responsibility to do so, not Dr. Halbert's. Students who leave class early must ask for permission prior to the start of class; if you leave without permission before the class is dismissed, you will be marked absent for the whole period. Good manners suggest that if you know you will miss a class meeting, you will contact me and let me know.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

In the event of inclement weather or other emergency, the College will post closures on the school's web portal and send text messages to anyone who has signed up for them. In the event that I have to cancel a class, I will email the class and post a message on Canvas (assuming I have power at home to access the Internet). I strongly urge each of you to set up [Montco's text messaging alert](#) on your mobile phones as well: the College will send an alert of campus-wide closings.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY, INCOMPLETES, AND AUDITS:

Students are encouraged to consult with their instructor and/or an academic advisor when initiating a Course Withdrawal. The instructor's permission must be requested and received if requesting a withdrawal after 60% and before 75% of the course is completed. After 75% of the course is completed, students may apply for an Excused Withdrawal due to medical, catastrophic, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. Specific dates of deadlines for this semester can be found on the [Registration Calendar](#).

Should you wish to withdraw from the course, the deadline to withdraw without my signature is Wednesday, October 29, 2025. If you do not formally withdraw, you will receive an F for the course even if you stop attending. ***After Wednesday, October 29, 2025, I will not sign any withdrawal requests unless you have a documented emergency. If I have not returned the first paper by this date, I will extend the deadline until one week after that paper is returned.***

The absolute last day to get my signature is Thursday, November 13, 2025. After that, all requests to withdrawal must be made directly to the Office of Academic Affairs..

Applications for an "Incomplete" will only be entertained in cases of documented medical emergencies, incarceration, or military call-ups. Audits will not be permitted unless you start the course as an audit student and can convince me that you are willing to do all that work for no grade.

LATE WORK

All work is due at the beginning of class on the day listed for the syllabus unless otherwise noted. I hate late work from students: it complicates my ability to grade or simply keep track of your work. More importantly, it devalues the efforts of your classmates who work very hard to meet their deadlines. To discourage late work, I have the following policy:

- Final drafts of papers lose 25 points (out of the possible 200 points) for each 24-hour period they are late. This penalty includes Saturdays and Sundays.

- Other late assignments have a 24-hour period to be submitted. They will be graded, and that grade will be divided by 2 and entered into the grade spreadsheet.

Late work will kill your grade, so don't do it. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to complete a task, contact me for an extension. I reserve the right to make an exception to the late policy in the case of an extreme (and documentable) emergency, but that almost never happens.

TUTORIAL SERVICES:

Tutorial Services: Free subject-area tutoring, academic workshops, and study skills specialists are available at Blue Bell Campus's Tutorial Services in College Hall 180, across from the cafeteria. Tutorial Services helps students develop learning strategies based on their unique learning styles with the goal of creating successful students and independent learners. Contact them at 215-641-6452 or log into the portal and find us online: [Tutorial Services hours and services](#). Please note that Tutorial Services houses the Writing Center where faculty-tutors are more than happy to assist with revising papers.

UPDATES TO SYLLABUS:

As the semester unfolds, Dr. Halbert may have to adjust the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. Such changes will be announced in class and via Canvas: once they are announced on Canvas, students must update their personal copies of the syllabus/daily assignments and are to be held to the new syllabus due dates. Dr. Halbert will make every effort to not change major assignments (papers, tests, in-class essays, etc.) even when changes are needed out of respect for those folks who plan ahead, but he reserves the right to do so if no other options are available.

BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT:

Any student who has difficulty accessing resources to meet their basic needs i.e. safety, food and/or stable housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact Wellness@mc3.edu

KEY ONLINE RESOURCES AT THE COLLEGE

You may find the following resources helpful here at Montgomery County Community College:

- [MCCC's Library Resources](#)
- [Registration Calendar](#)
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Fall 2025 Final Exam Schedule](#)
- [Acceptable Use of Technology policy](#)
- [Student Success Resources](#)

- [Wellness Resources](#) (physical and mental health resources)

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

As adults, students and the instructor should know to do the following in class:

- Be prepared for class with work completed and required materials available.
- Refrain from non-class related conversations once class has started.
- Keep cell phones and pagers in "silent" mode and refrain from answering them or using them to send text messages. Should a student expect an important call (because of family emergencies or issues of similar magnitude), please make the instructor aware of that possibility before class.
- Inform the professor if you will be recording the class.
- Treat each other with mutual respect: while we can challenge each other's ideas in class, personalized attacks or use of inappropriate language directed at another member of the class community is unacceptable.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Make the most of this course. It will help in the future.

FINAL WORD:

I enjoy teaching literature courses: I believe they can be the most empowering classes a person can take in college because the skills you learn can help you in virtually every part of your life. I took this job to help people discover their potential: as long as you are willing to do the work, I will do everything in my power to help you not only pass the course, but to be the best reader, writer, and critical thinker you can be.

Daily Assignments

Note: bulleted assignments are due on the date immediately above the bulleted list.

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

- First Day of Class.

Monday, September 1, 2025

- NO CLASS: Labor Day

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

- NO CLASS: We don't meet on Tuesdays.
- Last day to add 15-week course without professor's signature.

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

- Read the instructions and complete the Contact Information handout.
- Read the instructions and complete the Student Contract handout.
- Read and mark the following selections Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page:
 - "How to Really Read This Book"
 - ["A Special Note on Taking Separate Notes on Readings Rather Than Marking Text"](#)
 - ["How to Prepare for Dr. Halbert's Midterm and Final Exams"](#)
 - "A Brief Introduction to Science Fiction and Its History"
 - [skim only, no need to mark] "A Selective Guide to Science Fiction Research"
 - from *The War of the Worlds*—H.G. Wells
 - "A Martian Odyssey" —Stanley G. Weinbaum
 - "The Fact of Blackness"—Frantz Fanon
- Watch and take notes on *Blade Runner (Final Cut)*. [You can see where it is legally streaming here.](#)

Monday, September 8, 2025

- Read and mark "A Cyborg Manifesto"—Donna J. Haraway (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page). **WARNING:** This text is going to challenge you and will require multiple nights to complete. This is a 10-point reading.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

- Read and mark "Liar!"—Isaac Asimov (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).
- Read and mark "Burning Chrome"—William Gibson (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).

Monday, September 15, 2025

- Read and mark "Second Variety" by Philip K. Dick (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).
- Read and mark "When I Was Miss Dow" (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).
- Read and take notes on the Handout "[Dealing with Titles in MLA Format](#)" on the class web page.

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

- NO CLASS: We don't meet on Tuesdays.
- Last day to drop 15-week course before [withdrawal](#) required to exit course.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

- Read and mark selection From Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).
- [Withdrawal](#) without signature period begins for 15-week courses.

Monday, September 22, 2025

- [Scholarly Article Analysis Project](#): read and mark Lisa Yaszek's "Of Fossils and Androids: (Re)Producing Sexual Identity in 'Jurassic Park' and 'Blade Runner'" and then complete the questions found on the template document in the [Scholarly Article Analysis Project](#). (20 points for the response, 5 for marking and reading the text)
- Class will end at 11:20 AM today.

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

- Read and mark "The Girl Who Was Plugged In" (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).
- Midterm Exam Quotation Assignment Due. Submit to "Midterm Quotations" Assignment.

Monday, September 29, 2025

- Draft of Paper #1 due. Post a copy in the "Paper #1: Draft" Discussion Board topic. Posting is worth five points.
- We will have a workshop on your drafts today worth 20 points. You must attend class with a completed draft printed for a partner to read to get those points. Incomplete drafts will be prorated, but it is better to come with a partial draft than to skip class.
- If you had an accommodations letter sent to me, please send me an email to remind me that you will need extra time on the midterm exam so I can make arrangements.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

- Read and mark "The Algorithms for Love" by Ken Liu (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).
- Read and mark "Mars Is Heaven!"—Ray Bradbury (Found in the "Readings" section of our Canvas page).

- Read and mark "Bloodchild"—Octavia E. Butler (Found in the “Readings” section of our Canvas page).

Monday, October 6, 2025

- Final draft of Paper #1 due by noon in the “Paper 1: Final Draft (Graded copy)” in Assignments (for up to 200 points) and the “Paper 1: Final Draft (Discussion Board)” option (for 5 points). See checklist for details.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

- Midterm Exam. Make sure you prepare an [exam card](#).

Monday, October 13, 2025

- Read and mark Orson Scott Card’s “Ender’s Game” (the original short story version, not the novel, [available online](#)).
- Please arrange to view *Gattaca*. [You can see where Gattaca is legally streaming here](#). Take notes that will serve as your reading check for the film.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

- Read and mark "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government"—Hannah Arendt (Found in the “Readings” section of our Canvas page). This non-fiction theoretical piece is a bit challenging.

Monday, October 20, 2025

- Read and mark Sections 1 and 2 *1984*. Pages 1-230. (10 points)

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

- Finish reading and marking *1984*. Pages 231-308. (5 points)
- Read the final essay in *1984*, "The Principles of Newspeak."

Monday, October 27, 2025

- Read and mark pages 3-195 of *The Handmaid's Tale* ("I: Night" until "XII: Jezebel's"). (10 points)

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

- Finish reading and marking pages 199-211 of *The Handmaid's Tale* ("XII: Jezebel's" through the end of the "Historical Note"). (5 points)
- [Withdrawal](#) without signature period ends today.

Thursday, October 30, 2025

- NO CLASS: We do not meet on Thursdays.
- [Withdrawal](#) with faculty signature begins for 15-week courses.

Monday, November 3, 2025

- Read and mark Chapters 1-12 of *The Three Body Problem* (pages 9-163). (10 points)

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- Read and mark Chapters 13-24 of *The Three Body Problem* (pages 164-282). (5 points)
- We will discuss our second paper, which requires research

Monday, November 10, 2025

- Finish reading and marking *The Three Body Problem* (Chapter 25-35, pages 283-390). You do not have to read the afterwords.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

- Library Orientation. We will meet in the library: check announcements for specific location.
- Post a half-page description of one or two topics you are considering for Paper #2 that requires library research. Indicate the author, text, and overall topic about the text. Copy and paste AND attach the description to the "Research Paper Topics" Discussion Board Topic.
- Attendance counts double today.

Thursday, November 13, 2025

- NO CLASS: We don't meet on Thursdays.
- Withdrawal with faculty signature ends for 15-week courses. After today, you will need to apply for a WEX from the administration.

Monday, November 17, 2025

- Read and mark chapters 1-6 of *Watchmen*. Since the text is a graphic novel, I suggest using large Post-it notes so that you do not have to cover up the pictures that are as much a part of the text as the words.

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

- Read and mark the rest of *Watchmen*.

Monday, November 24, 2025

- Draft of Paper #2 Due. Post a copy in the "Paper #2: Draft" Discussion Board topic. Posting is worth five points.
- We will have a workshop on your drafts today worth 20 points. You must attend class with a completed draft printed for a partner to read to get those points. Incomplete drafts will be prorated, but it is better to come with a partial draft than to skip class.
- If you had an accommodations letter sent to me, please send me an email to remind me that you will need extra time on the final exam so I can make arrangements.

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

- NO CLASS: MCCC is closed for Thanksgiving Break.

Monday, December 1, 2025

- Read and mark Chapters 1-13 of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

- Finish reading and marking *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Monday, December 8, 2025

- Read and mark "The Nine Billion Names of God" by Arthur C. Clark.
- Read and mark "The Star" by Arthur C. Clark.
- Our last class meeting (and last day of 15-week courses for Fall 2025).
- It is always a good idea to attend and arrive on time to any final course meeting in college.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

- Final Exam: 10:20am – 12:20pm in our regular classroom.
- Bring your [exam card](#).
- Last day to resolve missing work.

Friday, December 12, 2025

- No Class: we have no more class meetings.
- Final Draft of Paper #2 due by noon. Post to "Paper #2 Final Draft: Discussion Board" (for 5 points) and to "Paper #2 Final Draft: Graded Copy" (for up to 200 points). See checklist for details.

Monday, December 15, 2025

- No Class: we have no more class meetings.
- Optional [Major Paper Rewrite of Paper #1](#) due by noon. Please submit to "Major Paper Rewrite" Assignment.

End of Semester Reminders:

- Attend the final meeting of all your classes.
- Check your Montco email and Canvas announcements every day until Dr. Halbert says the grades are posted.
- Don't email Dr. Halbert to see if the grades are done: he will announce when he is done.
- Do check your gradebook on Canvas during exam week to see individual assignment grades as they are entered.
- If there is a problem with a graded assignment, please email Dr. Halbert immediately.
- Faculty have until 11:59 PM on December 17th to get their grades in, but if they submit them sooner, they do not have to look at any work you try to submit late. Bear that in mind with your other professors.