

Indigenous Futurisms

NAS 410-001: Indigenous Futurisms, Course
62772 , Spring 2015

Location: CH 221

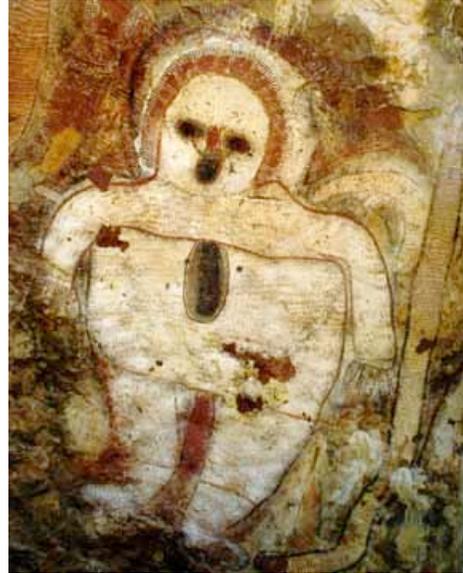
Course time: MW 2:00 -3:50 p.m.

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Office hours: MW 12:30-1:30 p.m. and by
appointment.



This course is about Native and Indigenous Futurisms, keying in on Indigenous peoples' created science fiction literature and beyond to mediums such as cinema, film shorts, graphical novels, New Media, music, digital games and art to forms of experimental science fiction blurring the boundaries of slipstream, the fantastic, and horror. Theoretical understandings of the field of science fiction will underpin our discussions, viewings, and readings. Thus, it brings together science fiction writing by accomplished Native/First Nations/Indigenous authors and provides a theoretical underpinning for understanding their contributions to the emerging Native/Indigenous sf literature. It addresses the issue of what distinguishes science fiction from other speculative writing typically associated with Native thinking (e.g., slipstream, magical realism, fantastical). In doing so, it juxtaposes western science with "Indigenous scientific literacies" (known elsewhere by terms such as Aboriginal resource management, Indigenous resource management, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge or TEK) to examine how Native/Indigenous sustainable practices constitute a Native science despite sometimes their lack of resemblance to taxonomic western technologies. Representative authors are chosen based on their historic contributions to establishing Native and Indigenous sf, such as Gerald Vizenor (Anishinaabe), who identified his 1978 *Bear Heart* as science fiction, and on their merit as New Wave Native or Indigenous authors who either experiment with the genre (Sherman Alexie, Couer d'Alene) or explicitly invoke it (Stephen Graham Jones) and thus validate and extend tradition. Texts will include *Walking the Clouds: Indigenous Science Fiction*, Zainab Amadahy' (Afro-Canadian and Cherokee) (Piegan Blackfeet)'s *Resistance*, Stephen Graham Jones' *The Fast Red Road*, and Daniel H. Wilson (Cherokee)'s *Robogenesis*. Welcome to both appreciating and experimenting with your own forms of storytelling inspired by exploring Indigenous Futurisms!

Satisfies Requirements for: The Native American Studies minor in our Indigenous Nations Studies program, English literature major, including ENG's diversity undergraduate requirement, the Popular Culture Cluster, Diversity requirements, and Connected Learning requirements for INTL students.

