

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
MAY 29, 2018**

To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies Minor

PRESENT:

~~SFTS Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies Minor~~

Subject abbreviation: ~~SFTS~~

Committee in Charge

Sherryl Vint (English)
Dana Simmons (History)
Tamara Ho (Gender and Sexuality Studies)
Nalo Hopkinson (Creative Writing)
Eric Schwitzgebel (Philosophy)
Milagros Peña, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences,
ex officio*

Supporting Faculty

Derek Burrill (Media and Cultural Studies)
Stuart Krieger (Theatre, Film and Digital
Production)
~~Margherita Long (Comparative Literature)~~
Juliet McMullin (Anthropology)
Yolanda Moses (Anthropology)
Lisa Raphals, (Comparative Literature)
Robin Russin (Theatre, Film and Digital
Production)
Chikako Takeshita (Gender and Sexuality
Studies)
James Tobias (English)
Susan Zieger (English)
Milagros Peña, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social
Sciences, ex officio*

PROPOSED:

SFCS Speculative Fiction and Cultures of Science Minor

Subject abbreviation: SFCS

Committee in Charge

Sherryl Vint (English)
Dana Simmons (History)
Tamara Ho (Gender and Sexuality Studies)
Nalo Hopkinson (Creative Writing)
Eric Schwitzgebel (Philosophy)
Milagros Peña, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences,
ex officio*

Supporting Faculty

Derek Burrill (Media and Cultural Studies)
Robb Hernandez (English)
John Jennings (Media and Cultural Studies)
Gloria Kim (Media and Cultural Studies)
Stuart Krieger (Theatre, Film and Digital
Production)
Tim Labor (Media and Cultural Studies)
Juliette Levy (History)
Juliet McMullin (Anthropology)
Yolanda Moses (Anthropology)
Lisa Raphals, (Comparative Literature)
Judith Rodenbeck (Media and Cultural Studies)
Richard Rodriguez (Media and Cultural Studies)
Robin Russin (Theatre, Film and Digital
Production)
Steven Sohn (English)
Chikako Takeshita (Gender and Sexuality
Studies)
James Tobias (English)
Susan Zieger (English)
Milagros Peña, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social
Sciences, ex officio*

The minor in Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies explores the intersections linking science fiction studies, science and technology studies (STS), and technoculture studies. The program examines the histories and cultures of science, technology, and medicine to understand the role that culture has always played in the production of science and the reciprocal way that changes in science and technology have shaped culture. The program uniquely emphasizes the role of popular culture and the genre of science fiction in particular in mediating public understandings of science, serving as an imaginative testing ground for technological innovation, and articulating hopes and anxieties regarding technocultural change. Drawing on faculty from across CHASS, the Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies minor enables students to develop a critical understanding of the cultures of science and their dialectical exchange with contemporary popular culture.

1. Upper-division requirements (24 units)

a) Four (4) units from SFCS 001

b) Sixteen (16) additional units, selected from the following groups. Students must take at least four (4) units from two of the three groups.

GROUP ONE: Fine Arts; selected from CRWT 162; CRWT 172; MCS 146; MCS 151G; MCS 153 (E-Z); TFDP 166C.

GROUP TWO: Humanities; selected from CPLT 118; CPAC 132; ENGL 179A; ENGL 179B; ENGL 179C; ENGL 179D; ENGL 179T; JPN 184; HIST 105; HIST 107; HISA 147; PHIL 137; PHIL 167.

The minor in Speculative Fiction and Cultures of Science explores intersections among speculative fiction, science and technology studies (STS), and traditions of speculative thought. We study the pervasive role of speculative discourses in public culture, investigating the complex and reciprocal exchanges among futuristic discourses, research agendas, public policy decisions, media texts, and daily life in technologically saturated societies. Using the combined perspectives of cultural studies and STS helps students develop critical literacy about their media-dominated landscape through which to understand its discourses of science and the future. Bringing speculative fictions and STS into dialogue, our scholars focus on understanding technological change in specific contexts by analyzing the texts and practices that have responded to, critiqued, and build upon the ways science shapes our cultural, material, and economic milieu. Speculative thinking and speculative fictions are central to many of the most compelling contemporary research concerns, such as the Anthropocene, climate change, genetic engineering, and discourses of the posthuman. We examine the histories and cultures of science, technology, and medicine to understand the role culture plays in the production of science and the reciprocal way changes in science and technology shape culture. Our program uniquely emphasizes the role of popular culture and the genres of speculative fiction, in particular, for serving as an imaginative testing ground for technological innovation, articulating hopes and anxieties regarding technological change, and mediating public understandings of science and its applications.

1. ~~Upper-division~~ Requirements (24 units)

a) Four (4) units from SFCS 001 or from the approved substitutes ENGL 146(E-Z)/MCS 146(E-Z) or ENGL 179C or ANTH 162.

b) No change.

GROUP THREE: Social Sciences;
selected from ANTH 143; ANTH 162;
GSST 106; GSST 161; GSST 185; GSST
187; GSST 189.

c) Four (4) units from SFTS 193 (senior seminar)

All students must take the introductory course and the senior seminar. There is no required order in which elective courses must be taken but credit in SFTS 001 is required for entry into SFTS 193.

See Minors under the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences in the Colleges and Programs section of this catalog for information on minors.

c) Four (4) units from SFCS 193 (senior seminar) or CPLT 193 or ENGL 189 or MCS 193 or PHIL 193

All students must take the introductory course (SFCS 001) and the senior seminar or approved equivalents listed above. There is no required order in which elective courses must be taken but credit in SFCS 001 is required for entry into SFCS 193.

See Minors under the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences in the Colleges and Programs section of this catalog for information on minors.

JUSTIFICATION:

We have changed the name of the program to match the name change for the related Designated Emphasis that was approved in 2015. The Registrar's Office was consulted regarding the proposed new subject code and that the proposed new subject code meets their guidelines and can be used in the system. We have also increased the course options for meeting requirements, since we were unable to offer some courses frequently enough for students to complete in a timely manner. None of the course are new courses, just newly configured to this program. We have slightly adjusted the description of the program and the core course to better match the direction of research with the new faculty complement. Finally, some new faculty have joined the program and some people have left UCR and so the faculty list is updated.

APPROVALS:

Approved by the faculty of the Department of English:	May 2017
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:	January 17, 2018
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:	April 25, 2018