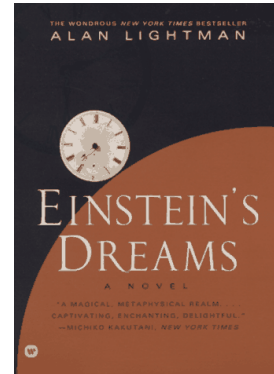


Technology and Culture: When Worlds Collide



Using *Blade Runner*, Steampunk short stories, Alan Lightman's *Einstein's Dreams*, Romantic poetry, and a Victorian fairy tale, this course will analyze poetry, new media, novels, short stories, and films inspired by nature, biology, robotics, physics, space, and more. Themes will include the politics of science and technology, technological determinism, the relationship between popular and technical writing, and representation in science. Science studies scholars Lorriane Daston, Langdon Winner, Mary Ann Doane, and Adelheid Voskuhl will help us think about about the ways technology and culture intermingle to create new ideas about the worlds we live in and the worlds we imagine. This course will complicate easy divisions between science and the humanities and ask students to engage in new ways of thinking about the relationship between society and technology.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Inventing the Future

VanderMeer, Ann and Jeff VanderMeer, Steampunk. San Francisco: Tachyon Publications, 2008. 3-13, 17-53.

Gibson, William and Bruce Sterling. The Difference Engine. New York: Bantam Books, 1991.

Week 2: Science, Technology, and Fate

Wells, H G. The World Set Free. London: Macmillan and Co., 1914.

Winner, Langdon. "Do Artefacts Have Politics?" Winner, Langdon. The Whale and the Reactor. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986. 26.

Week 3: Observation: Seeing as a Skill

Oliver, Mary. New and Selected Poems. Boston: Beacon Press, 2005.

Scudder, Samuel H. "Learning to See." *Science and its Ways of Knowing*. Ed. Hatton, John. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997.

Week 4: The Natural and the Represented

Darwin, Erasmus. "The botanic garden. Part II. Containing the loves of the plants. A poem. With philosophical notes." 1794. Eighteenth Century Collections Online.

Daston, Lorraine and Peter Galison. "The Image of Objectivity." Representations (1992): 81-128.

Daston, Lorraine. "The Glass Flowers." Things that Talk: Object Lessons for Art and Science. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007. 223-257.

Week 5: Perceptions of Time

Lightman, Alan P. Einstein's Dreams. New York: Pantheon Books, 1993.

Wordsworth, William and Stephen Taylor Coleridge. Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems. Ed. Michael Schmidt. New York: Penguin Classics, 2007. "Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1802)," "Lines Written Above Tintern Abbey," "The Tables Turned; an Evening Scene, on the Same Subject."

Week 6: Logic and Nonsense

Carroll, Lewis, Selwyn Hugh Goodacre and Barry Moser. Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.

Bayley, Melanie. "Algebra in Wonderland." 6 March 2010. The New York Times. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/07/opinion/07bayley.html?_r=1>.

Week 7: Automata to Robots

De Morgan, Mary. "A Toy Princess." De Morgan, Mary and William Frend De Morgan. On a Pincushion, and other fairy tales. New York: Dutton, 1877.

Voskuhl, Adelheid. "Producing Objects, Producing Texts: Accounts of Android Automata in Late 18th-century Europe." Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (2007): 422-444.

Schodt, Frederik L. The Astro Boy Essays: Osamu Tezuka, Mighty Atom, and the Manga/Anime Revolution. Berkeley: Stone Bridge Press, 2007.

Week 8: Impossible Places and Things

Danielewski, Mark Z. House of Leaves. New York: Pantheon Books, 2000.

Dunne, Anthony and Fiona Raby. Design Noir: The Secret Life of Electronic Objects. Berlin: Birkhauser, 2001.

Week 9: Mars and Martians

Asimov, Isaac. Mars, the Red Planet. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., 1977.

—. The Martian Way, and Other Stories. Garden City: Doubleday, 1955.

Bell, Jim. Postcards from Mars: The First Photographer on the Red Planet. New York: Dutton, 2006.

Week 10: Animals: Imagining Biology

Atwood, Margaret. Oryx and Crake : A Novel. New York: Nan A. Talese, 2003.

SymbioticA. "MEART - SymbioticA's Fish & Chips." 2010. Art and Electronic Media. <<http://artelectronicmedia.com/?q=node/199>>.

Week 11: Bodies, Tissues, and Culture

Huxley, Julian. The Tissue-Culture King. 1927. <<http://www.revolutionsf.com/fiction/tissue/index.html>>.

Institute for Plastination. Gunther von Hagens' Body Worlds: The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies. 2010. 1 October 2010 <<http://www.bodyworlds.com/en.html>>.

Orlan. "Performance Works." 2010. Orlan. <<http://www.orlan.net/works/performance/>>.

Stelarc. "ear on arm." 2010. Stelarc. <<http://v2.stelarc.org/projects/earonarm/index.html>>.

Week 12: Science and Fictions in Film

Blade Runner. Dir. Ridley Scott. Warner Bros. Pictures. 1982.

Burns, Ken. The National Parks: America's Best Idea. Selected Clips. <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/watch-video/#642>.

Doane, Mary Ann. "Technophilia: Technology, Representation and the Feminine." *The Gendered Cyborg: A Reader*.

Mitman, Gregg. Reel Nature : America's Romance with Wildlife on Films. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.