



Selected Topics in Political Science - POLISCI 2294G

Course: Political Theory Thru Science Fiction

Instructor: Dianne Lalonde

"Every choice we make allows us to manipulate the future."

Captain Jean-Luc Picard

Science fiction explores questions fundamental to political and social life like how humans respond to threats, who advancements in technology may benefit and who they may disadvantage, and where our current trajectory is taking us (whether that be economically, environmentally, politically, etc.). Like science fiction, political theory seeks to understand aspects of our current world by exploring abstract ideas around humanity, justice, and governmentality. Joined together, science fiction and political theory are in a unique position to investigate abstract ideas in a way that is grounded in concrete scenarios and possible futures.

In this course, we will use science fiction films, shows, audio plays, and comics to explore some core concepts in political theory. This course will engage your political, social, and economic imagination to better understand where we are right now and where we could be in the future – whether that is a utopia, a dystopia, or something in the middle.