

ENGL 3402: Science Fiction and Fantasy: Afrofuturism: Creating Black Futures

Course Description: As a social, literary and cultural movement, Afrofuturism has taken the artistic world by storm. First established in 1993 by Mark Derry, Afrofuturism has blossomed into one of the most prolific artistic movements in recent history. Ranging in topics from literature, video gaming, painting, music, etc. Afrofuturism is transforming how Black folk see themselves and the world. This course is going to dive right into the middle of this conversation and interrogate how and why Afrofuturism has become so essential to contemporary Black life. So, Afrofuturism is “an intersection of imagination, technology, the future and liberation...Both an artistic aesthetic, and a framework for critical theory, Afrofuturism combines elements of science fiction, historical fiction, speculative fiction, fantasy, Afrocentricity, and magical realism with non-Western beliefs” (Womack 9). This exciting field is going to be our playground for the semester. We will laugh, cry, interrogate, and be inspired by our authors; more importantly, we will be delighted by the imaginations and worlds of Afrofuturism.

Possible Texts:

The Dead Cat Tail Assassins—p. deji clark—978-1250767042

The Ballad of Black Tom—Victor LaValle—978-0765387868

Touched—Walter Mosley—978-0802161840

Kindred—Octavia E. Butler—978-0807083697

Remote Control—Nnedi Okorafor—978-1250772800

Hundred Thousand Kingdoms—N.K. Jemisin—978-0316043915