

ENGL S287E 01 (SA24): Literature and the Future

[Jump to Today](#)

 Edit

This course offers a survey of literature's role in anticipating and constructing potential "futures" throughout the twentieth century. Questions explored in this course will include: What do we mean by "futuraity"? What does it mean to "anticipate" the future? How have authors attempted to make sense of the philosophical complexities of multiple futures? What unique qualities does literature offer in anticipating or imagining the myriad of possible futures? Analyzing the longer history of literary "futurism," this course explores what literature can tell us about this most human need: to understand what's coming and how to respond to it.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

15%: Writing Assignment #1

30%: Writing Assignment #2

40%: Final Paper

15%: Class participation, presentation, quizzes, etc.

Tues. May 28 :

* Intro to the class: what is the future?

Thurs. May 30 :

* H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (1895), pdf [here \(https://books.google.com/books?id=Y0pAAQAAIAAJ&newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&dq=wells%20time%20machine&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=wells%20time%20machine&f=false\)](https://books.google.com/books?id=Y0pAAQAAIAAJ&newbks=1&newbks_redir=0&dq=wells%20time%20machine&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=wells%20time%20machine&f=false)

Tues. June 4:

* Jorge Luis Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths" (1941) link [here \(https://www.dropbox.com/s/ju8m2wb1a5eqari/Borges%20GARDEN%20OF%20FORKING%20PATHS.pdf?dl=0\)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ju8m2wb1a5eqari/Borges%20GARDEN%20OF%20FORKING%20PATHS.pdf?dl=0)

"Funes The Memorios," [here \(https://www.dropbox.com/s/2isu3jhz1ku819b/Borges%20FUNES%20THE%20MEMORIOUS%20%281944%29.pdf?dl=0\)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/2isu3jhz1ku819b/Borges%20FUNES%20THE%20MEMORIOUS%20%281944%29.pdf?dl=0)

and "Library of Babel" [here \(https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/v7jgohfch3hkjw3gryguo/Borges-LIBRARY-OF-BABEL.pdf?rlkey=o5awnkpl6t74qa23g264hmoiv&dl=0\)](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/v7jgohfch3hkjw3gryguo/Borges-LIBRARY-OF-BABEL.pdf?rlkey=o5awnkpl6t74qa23g264hmoiv&dl=0)

Thurs. June 6:

* Futurism founding manifesto (1909) (From *Futurism: An Anthology*, pp. 49-53), link [here \(https://www.dropbox.com/s/f09yzv1rilt4xkg/lawrence-rainey-futurism-an-anthology-1.pdf?dl=0\)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/f09yzv1rilt4xkg/lawrence-rainey-futurism-an-anthology-1.pdf?dl=0)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/f09yzv1rilt4xkg/lawrence-rainey-futurism-an-anthology-1.pdf?dl=0>

Marinetti "Destruction of Syntax" (pp. 143-151), "Geometrical and Mechanical Splendor" (pp. 175-180)

* **Assignment #1 Due**

Tues. June 11:

George Orwell, 1984 [here \(https://www.dropbox.com/s/r5n8htxqu0qge3o/Orwell%20NINETEEN%20EIGHTY-FOUR%20%281949%29.pdf?dl=0\)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/r5n8htxqu0qge3o/Orwell%20NINETEEN%20EIGHTY-FOUR%20%281949%29.pdf?dl=0)

Thurs. June 13:

George Orwell, 1984 *cont.*

Tues. June 18:

* Katie Patterson, *Future Library* (website) [here \(https://katiepaterson.org/artwork/future-library/\)](https://katiepaterson.org/artwork/future-library/)

* **Assignment #2 Due**

Thurs. June 20:

Octavia Butler (short story, link coming)

Tues. June 25:

* Willis Harman, *An Incomplete Guide to the Future* (1976) - link [here \(https://www.amazon.com/Incomplete-Guide-Future-Willis-Harman/dp/0393950069/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Willis+Harman%2C+An+Incomplete+Guide+to+the+Future&qid=1578018217&sr=8-1\)](https://www.amazon.com/Incomplete-Guide-Future-Willis-Harman/dp/0393950069/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Willis+Harman%2C+An+Incomplete+Guide+to+the+Future&qid=1578018217&sr=8-1)

* Watch: *The Global Brain* (1983) documentary [here \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=B1sr9x263LM\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=B1sr9x263LM)

Thurs. June 27:

* Watch: Ray Kurzweil, *Transcendent Man* (documentary [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCov79Bik9Q)) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCov79Bik9Q>)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCov79Bik9Q> * **Final Projects Due**

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
------	---------	-----
