

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Lars Schmeink</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>An Introduction to Contemporary Canadian Science Fiction [AA-A3, ENG-7, AA-W]</b> ACHTUNG: Online-Seminar, kostenpflichtig
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar Ib</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-563</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>2st,</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Nur Online</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>Nur Online</b>

**Abstract:**

"Science Fiction is the literature of change," postulates SF editor James Gunn in his anthology *The Road to Science Fiction (Volume 1: vii)*. It is also a literature of ideas. Science Fiction deals with human reactions to situations of extreme changes, and to extreme ideas. It is a literary reflection on the possibilities of the human species. And, of course, it is the literature of technology, reflecting on its development, criticizing or glorifying its possibilities. As such it developed at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when humans started seeing unaccustomed possibilities, when they were confronted with changes beyond their understanding. The genre then quickly became one of the most widely read literatures of that century, only by the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> with the development of the CGI enhanced film to develop into the most successful movie genre of our own time.

In this seminar, we will examine how recent Canadian science fiction writers and filmmakers explore societal changes, extrapolate scientific developments and speculate on possible futures. We will analyze the Canadian cultural adaptations of the "War on Terror", communication technology, bio-engineering and posthumanity, and our "future-present", as William Gibson has aptly named it. You will be required to read the material (buy the books), manage written tasks and research (essays, wiki entry, etc.) and hand in a written exam paper - all online (see below).

**Primary texts:**

Cory Doctorow – *Little Brother* (2008)  
Margaret Atwood – *Oryx and Crake* (2003)  
William Gibson – *Pattern Recognition* (2003)  
*Splice* (Dir. Vincenzo Natali, 2009)  
*eXistenZ* (Dir. David Cronenberg, 1999)

**Secondary texts (selection, subject to change):**

James, Edward. *Science Fiction in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1994.  
---, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2003.  
Ketterer, David. *Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1992.  
Seed, David, ed. *A Companion to Science Fiction*. Malden: Blackwell, 2005.

**NOTE ON VIRTUALITY OF COURSE:**

This course will be part of the "VIRTUAL CANADIAN STUDIES" offered by the Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien at [www.vcs.kanada-studien.de](http://www.vcs.kanada-studien.de) and will take place ONLINE ONLY (!!!) - Students will have to register separately via VCS and participate online. **The course (via VCS) requires a registration fee of 25 Euros.** Contact me if you have any questions: [lars.schmeink@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:lars.schmeink@uni-hamburg.de), or ask the VCS coordinator, Frau Metz, directly: [metzanne@uni-trier.de](mailto:metzanne@uni-trier.de).

The course is registered as a normal Ib Seminar within the following modules: [AA-A3, ENG-7, AA-W].

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>Siehe Sprechstundenseite.</b>
<b>Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	<b>Siehe Sprechstundenseite.</b>