

## DISCIPLINE SHEET

### 1. Program data

1.1 Higher education institution	BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
1.2 Faculty	HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
1.3 Department	PHILOSOPHY
1.4 Field of studies	PHILOSOPHY
1.5 The cycle of studies	MASTERS
1.6 Study program / Qualification	PHILOSOPHY, CULTURE, COMMUNICATION / MASTER IN PHILOSOPHY

### 2. Discipline data

2.1 Name of the discipline	<b>Philosophical Topics in Science Fiction Film and Literature</b>						
2.2 Owner of course activities	Assoc. Prof. Dr. MAFTEI STEFAN						
2.3 Holder of seminar activities	Assoc. Prof. Dr. MAFTEI STEFAN						
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 The semester	3	2.6. The type of assessment	E	2.7 Discipline regime	Ob.

### 3. Estimated total time (hours per semester of teaching activities)

3.1 Number of hours per week	4	Of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	2
3.4 Total hours from the curriculum	56	Of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	28
Distribution of the time fund:					hours
Study according to the textbook, course support, bibliography and notes					15
Additional documentation in the library, on specialized electronic platforms and in the field					15
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, assignments, reports, portfolios and essays					40
tutorial					28
EXAMINATION					4
Other activities: .....					
3.7 Total hours of individual study	70conv.				
3.8 Total hours per semester	56 physical/154 conv.				
3.9 Number of Credits	8				

### 4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of the curriculum	•
4.2 skills	•

### 5. Terms (where applicable)

5.1 Conducting the course	Attendance at classes is not mandatory. The appearance at the exam is not conditioned by a minimum number of attendances
5.2 Conducting the seminar/laboratory	The activity at the seminar is mandatory. Missed seminars can be recovered

## 6. The specific skills accumulated

<b>Professional skills</b>	<p>C1.3 Defining and expressing the specificity of philosophical problems in relation to other humanistic disciplines</p> <p>C1.4 Questioning the place/function of philosophy within the various fields of culture and human knowledge, and specifying the relationships between them</p> <p>C3.4 Critical and constructive examination of concepts and visions (approaches) in science, politics, religion and art</p> <p>C4.2 Interpretation and appreciation of human creations (cultural-artistic, scientific) by applying basic philosophical knowledge</p> <p>C6.1 Defining and choosing appropriate methods and techniques for solving interpersonal and intercultural problems with an average level of complexity</p> <p>C6.2 Identifying, understanding and respecting the values, opinions, needs, feelings of other people or cultures</p>
<b>Transversal skills</b>	<p><b>CT1</b> Approaching in a realistic way and through both theoretical and practical argumentation of some problem-situations with a high degree of difficulty in order to solve them effectively</p> <p><b>CT2.</b> Managing complex professional activities or projects by taking responsibility for decision-making in a multidisciplinary team</p> <p><b>CT3</b> Self-management of own professional development activities and exercising personal autonomy in unpredictable study and work conditions</p>

## 7. The objectives of the discipline (resulting from the grid of accumulated skills)

7.1 The general objective of the discipline	<p>The course proposes an analysis of some popular culture products (film, literature) specific to the SF genre in the light of philosophical thinking and the established or current themes of philosophy. Consequently, the course will focus not only on a cultural reading, but also on the identification, interpretation and deepening of some topics, ideas or symbols of SF popular culture from the perspective of philosophy as a cultural hermeneutic strategy. The course seeks to show that literature and film, especially the <i>science-fiction genre</i>, have always been, at the level of their contents, places of circulation and debate for major philosophical topics and ideas. In addition, <i>science fiction</i> also exhibits an additional advantage, primarily to the extent that it even selects and proposes, in its projections, possible scenarios and situations which require an understanding and a decryption using the tools and the argumentation specific to philosophy. Secondly, <i>science fiction</i>, as literature and cinema embracing the possible in the sense of a projected future, has the virtue of engaging philosophically in debates concerning matters of great interest nowadays. The analysis of <i>science fiction</i> from the point of view of its philosophical importance only shows that philosophy is, through its approach and through its conceptual contents, extremely apt, adaptive and even imperative to contribute to the debate of such of problematic issues such as those that arise today at the contact between man, society and the worlds of science and technology in the frameworks of understanding and reasoned discussion.</p>
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understanding philosophical thinking and philosophical questions as cultural hermeneutic strategies</li> <li>- analyzing some products of popular culture (film, literature) specific to the SF genre from the perspective of philosophical thinking and classical themes of philosophy</li> <li>- Interpreting and respecting personal and cultural specificities and differences within the same culture or in relation to different cultures; the recognition of cultural and political pluralism, specific to liberal democracy</li> <li>- perceiving the philosophical dimension of reading SF film and literature, with case studies.</li> <li>- awareness of the actuality of the philosophical debate in contact with themes and motifs of literature and sci-fi film that are reflected in matters of great importance in today's culture, marked implacably especially by the impact of information technologies.</li> </ul>

## 8. Contents

8.1 Course	teaching methods	Remarks
LECTURE 1-2 . Sci-Fi and Philosophical Thinking. Interactions and compatibilities. Towards a new “philosophy of the future”?	- interactive course based on lectures and multimedia presentations - discussions based on examples	

LECTURE 3. MAN AND HIS FUTURE IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL AGE. Anxieties and hopes about science and technology: <i>Frankenstein</i> ; or, <i>The Modern Prometheus</i>	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 4. HUMAN IDENTITY: humans, cyborgs, robots ( <i>Blade Runner</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 5. THE SELF AND ITS COHERENCE ( <i>Total Recall</i> , <i>We Can Remember It for You Wholesale</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 6. BODY AND MIND ( <i>Bicentennial Man</i> , <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> , <i>Neuromancer</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 7. FREE WILL ( <i>Matrix</i> , <i>Minority Report</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ( <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 9. DYSTOPIAS, UTOPIAS ( <i>Men Like Gods</i> , <i>Brave New World</i> , <i>1984</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 10. THE OUTSIDERS ( <i>ET</i> and <i>Alien</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 11. THE WAR OF THE FUTURE ( <i>Terminator</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 12. ECOTOPIAS AND FEMINOTOPIAS ( <i>Avatar</i> , <i>The Female Man</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 13. EMPIRES AND COLONIZATIONS ( <i>Dune</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	
LECTURE 14. IMMORTALITY: curse or blessing? ( <i>The Postmortal</i> )	-interactive course with lecture foundation and multimedia presentations -discussions based on examples	

### **Bibliography**

#### **Movies:**

*Blade Runner* (1982) – dir. Ridley Scott  
*Total Recall* (2012) – dir. Len Wiseman  
*The Matrix* (1999) – dir. L. & L. Wachowski  
*Minority Report* (2002) – dir. Steven Spielberg  
*2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) – dir. Stanley Kubrick  
*ET* (1982) – dir. Steven Spielberg  
*Alien* (1979) – dir. Ridley Scott  
*The Terminator* (1984) – dir. James Cameron  
*Avatar* (2009) – dir. James Cameron  
*Dune* (1984) – dir. David Lynch  
*Dune* (2021) – dir. Denis Villeneuve

**Literature:**

*Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818) - Mary Shelley  
*Bicentennial Man* (1976) – Isaac Asimov  
*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (1968) – Philip K. Dick  
*Neuromancer* (1984) – William Gibson  
*Men Like Gods* (1923) – HG Wells  
*Brave New World* (1932) – Aldous Huxley  
*1984. A Novel* (1949) – George Orwell  
*The Female Man* (1975) – Joanna Russ  
*The Postmortal* (2011) – Drew Magary  
*We Can Remember It for You Wholesale* (1966) - Philip K. Dick  
*The Minority Report* (1956) - Philip K. Dick  
*Dune* (1965) – Frank Herbert

**Secondary sources:**

Brown, R., Decker, KS (eds.), *Terminator and Philosophy* (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series), Blackwell, 2009  
 Decker, KS (ed.), *Dune and Philosophy* (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series), Blackwell, 2023  
 Dunn, GA (ed.), *Avatar and Philosophy* , (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series), Blackwell, 2014  
 Ewing, J., Decker, KS (eds.), *Alien and Philosophy* , (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series), Blackwell, 2017  
 Michaud, Nicolas (ed.), *Frankenstein and Philosophy* (Popular Culture and Philosophy Series), Open Court, 2013  
 Nicolas, Jeffery (ed.), *Dune and Philosophy* (Popular Culture and Philosophy Series), Open Court, 2011  
 Rowlands, Mark, *The Philosopher at the End of the Universe: Philosophy Explained Through Science Fiction Films* , Ebury Press, 2005  
 Sanders, Steven M. (ed.), *The Philosophy of Science Fiction Film* , University Press of Kentucky, 2008  
 Schneider, Susan (ed.), *Science Fiction and Philosophy* , Wiley-Blackwell, 2009  
 Wittkower, DE (ed.), *Philip K. Dick and Philosophy: Do Androids Have Kindred Spirits?* (Popular Culture and Philosophy Series), Open Court, 2011

<b>8.2 Seminar / laboratory</b>	teaching methods	Remarks
1-2. Activity organisation. Discussion on the novel <i>Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus</i>		
3-4. Viewing and discussion about the film <i>Blade Runner</i>		
5-6-7-8. Viewing and discussion on the films <i>Total Recall</i> , <i>Matrix</i> , <i>Minority Report</i> , <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>  Discussion on <i>We Can Remember It for You Wholesale</i> , <i>Bicentennial Man</i> , <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i> , <i>Neuromancer</i>		
9-10. Viewing and discussion on <i>ET</i> and <i>Alien</i> films  Discussion on <i>Men Like Gods</i> , <i>Brave New World</i> , <i>1984</i>		
11-12. Viewing and discussion about the movies <i>Terminator</i> and <i>Avatar</i>  Discussion on <i>The Female Man</i>		

13-14. Viewing and discussion on <i>Dune</i> (1984) and <i>Dune</i> (2021)		
Discussion on <i>Dune</i> (novel)		
Discussion on <i>The Postmortal</i>		

**9. Corroboration of the contents of the discipline with the expectations of representatives of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers in the field related to the program**

The course content is compatible with the content of courses taught at the "graduate" level in prestigious universities in Europe and the USA, as well as with the requirements of the professional community

**10. Evaluation**

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 evaluation methods	10.3 Weight of the final grade
10.4 Course	- acquisition of the knowledge taught in the course; - the ability to operate correctly and adequately with them	The evaluation will be done both during the semester and during the final examination	
	- undertaking an own documentary research in the fields of philosophy, cultural studies and philosophy of culture; - acquisition and application of research and writing methods specific to philosophy (text analysis, report, academic essay)	Written exam at the end of the semester (session)	66% of the final mark
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	- acquisition of the knowledge discussed at the seminar; - the ability to operate correctly and adequately with them	The evaluation will be done both during the semester - oral verification - and during the final examination	33% of the final grade
	-seminar activity: participation in debates, report presentation; - acquisition and application of research and writing methods specific to philosophy (text analysis, report, academic essay)		

**10.6 Minimum Performance Standard**

Elaboration of an academic essay / case study, of high complexity, using methods of philosophy and socio-humanistic sciences  
 Planning and making individual oral and written presentations at seminars (debate, text analysis-commentary, academic essay)  
 Any work that is found to be at least 20% copied from another source or developed with the help of AI will be considered plagiarized, and the use of plagiarism will cause the evaluation to be canceled. Any contestation of the grade obtained in the exam must be accompanied by a request from the student for the reevaluation of the paper. The result of this reevaluation will be presented to the students within 2 days from the date of the appeal.

Date of completion

Signature of the course holder

Signature of the seminar holder

28.09.2023

Assoc. Prof. Dr. MAFTEI STEFAN

Assoc. Prof. Dr. MAFTEI STEFAN




Date of approval in the department

Signature of the director of the department

02.10.2023

Prof. Dr. COPOERU ION

