

History of the Future

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 Office Hours: Individual appointments can be made via email and will be
 scheduled on Zoom, Google Meet, or by phone.

Texts: Peter J. Bowler, *A History of the Future: Prophets of Progress from H. G. Wells to Isaac Asimov* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)
 ISBN-10: 1316602621 ISBN-13: 978-1316602621

Editors of Popular Science, *The Future Then: Fascinating Art & Predictions from 145 Years of Popular Science* (Weldon Owen, 2018)
 ISBN-10: 168188299X ISBN-13: 978-1681882994

Class Description and Objectives: This course examines how science fiction writers and futurists have predicted the future in the past. When were they right? When were they wrong? Why were they right? Why were they wrong? Can we predict the future with any success?

Due to the pandemic, this course will be taught in a virtual format via Google Meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon. Class participation and discussion are expected.

Grading Policies: Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Worksheets	50%
Term Paper	30%
Book Report	20%

Grades: A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% E: 0 - 59%
 (Grades at the high or low ends of these ranges will earn plus and minus grades.)

Worksheets: There will be a worksheet due on each Monday, based on your readings for that week and the class discussions.

Schedule: Look on Canvas for the daily readings and viewing assignments.

Campus Closure: In the event of an extended campus closure, please look at your Weber State email in order for instructions on how we will continue the class via email and the Canvas online course system.

Learning Outcomes Satisfied by this Course:

- Clear and compelling written expression.
- Critical thinking that is open-minded, objective, and as free as possible from prejudice and presupposition.
- The comprehension of abstract arguments and the ability to move between the general and the particular.

Term Paper: A twelve page paper on any topic covered in the course is required (double-spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins). You may turn in an early draft for the instructors to critique and we will return the critiqued draft one week later. The final draft is due on April 11. The content can be a personal essay or a research paper with citations.

Book Report: Each student will read an additional book from a list included at the end of this syllabus. The student should research book reviews and academic papers on the book, if they exist. Each student will write a four-page book report (double-spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins), covering who wrote the book, a very brief description of the topics covered, and why this is an important book.

Cheating Policy: Cheating and deceit are not accepted at Weber State University. Cheating on a worksheet or assignment, or turning in someone else's work as your own, will result in an E for the class. You may work together on your assignments and papers, but you must turn in your own work. If you quote from a book, article, or web site, you must properly quote and cite your work. Avoid even the appearance of cheating or plagiarism.

Recording Classes: Video or audio recording of any portion of lectures is only permitted in this class upon authorization by the instructors. If you would like to request authorization to record, please contact us. Unauthorized recording is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, for which a student may be subjected to disciplinary action under PPM 6-22, Student Code. Students who seek to record for purposes of accommodating a disability should contact the Disability Services Office at (801) 626-6413 or dsc@weber.edu. See more info at www.weber.edu/disabilityservices.

Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Student Expectations for Spring 2021 Courses:

See this [document](#) for campus policies in light on the pandemic.

Digital Addendum for Campus Course Policies:

See this [document](#) for other campus course policies.

New Daily Schedule:

January 12 (Tuesday): Introduction to the class

January 14 (Thursday): Read Swedin, "Designing Babies"

January 19 (Tuesday): Continue discussing "Designing Babies"

January 21 (Thursday): Read Bowler, Preface, Chapter 1 (file copy on Canvas)

January 26 (Tuesday): Read Popular Science, Introduction and chapter on 1870s-1910s

January 28 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1920s

February 2 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 2

February 4 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1930s

February 9 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 3

February 11 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1940s

February 16 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 4

February 18 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1950s

February 23 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 5

February 25 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1960s

March 2 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 6

March 4 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1970s

March 9 (Tuesday): Spring Break

March 11 (Thursday): Spring Break

March 16 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 7

March 18 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1980s

March 23 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 8

March 25 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 1990s

March 30 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 9

April 1 (Thursday): Read Popular Science, chapter on 2000s-2010s

April 6 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 10

April 8 (Thursday): Read Bowler, Chapter 11

April 13 (Tuesday): Read Bowler, Chapter 12

April 15 (Thursday): Spare day

April 20 (Tuesday): Spare day

April 22 (Thursday): Spare day

No final exam.