

New Course/Seminar

Religion & Science Fiction

Spring 2021

"I find your lack of faith disturbing." – Darth Vader



What part does religion play in science fiction fantasy? How does sci-fi capture the real-world complexity of religious faith and practice? What do the themes that consistently appear in science fiction reveal about the often ambivalent relationship between outer space and our spirits?

This seminar explores the relationship between religion and science fiction through the critical study of a wide range of science fiction, including *Star Wars*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Dune*, and *The Matrix*. Students will explore key themes in the study of religion, including creation myths, innocence and experience, ritual, and sacred texts, as well as explore contemporary questions regarding religious diversity and the interplay of religion and culture.

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