FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

UUPC Approval 4-27-26
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

Department English

College College of Arts and Letters

Program Name

Science Fiction and Fantasy Studies (SFFS) Undergraduate Minor and Certificate

☑ **New Program***

☐ **Change Program***

Effective Date
(TERM & YEAR)

Fall 2026

Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.

Please see the attached rationale and proposal.

*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

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Timothy S. Miller/millert@fau.edu/561-297-3830

Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation

Philosophy (including one of their courses as elective course with approval of the department).

Approved by		***Date***
Department Chair	Oliver Buckton	4/6/26
College Curriculum Chair	Robin Larson	04/14/2026
College Dean		04/14/2026
UUPC Chair	Korey Sorge	4-27-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean	Dan Mecroff	4-27-26
UFS President		
Provost		

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Studies (SFFS)
Undergraduate Minor and Certificate
(Minimum of 12 credits required)

Standing faculty committee for program operations:
Taryne Jade Taylor, Assistant Professor, English
Timothy Miller, Assistant Professor, English
Ian P. MacDonald, Associate Professor, English

The Undergraduate program in Science Fiction and Fantasy Studies introduces students to the long history of dialogue between the sciences and the humanities and more, and is concerned with products of the human imagination that reflect on both the future and the past. While grounded in literature, this fundamentally interdisciplinary area of inquiry can range across numerous fields including Science and Technology Studies; Environmental Humanities; Philosophy; History; and others. Students intent upon numerous career paths will benefit from a firm grounding in interdisciplinary conversations bridging literature and the sciences, particularly at a time when the pace of technological and resulting social changes continues to accelerate to unprecedented levels. This expanding field of study promises to help better orient students in relation to an always unpredictable future.

Students may earn this minor or certificate by completing 12 credits in courses that focus on Science Fiction and Fantasy Studies. Students may choose from the content courses below to meet the 12-credit requirement.

The certificate is available to degree-seeking students, non-degree students, and working professionals. The minor is available to all undergraduate degree-seeking students and may be earned upon successful completion of the coursework below and the simultaneous completion of a bachelor's degree at FAU.

Of the 12 credit hours required, 9 must be at the upper-division level; at least 9 must also be completed at FAU; and students completing the minor or certificate must earn a minimum overall FAU grade point average of 2.0 within the coursework required.

Required courses:
LIT 3312: Fantasy Literature
LIT 3313: Science Fiction

Elective courses – choose two from below:
In addition to the electives listed here, students may take one 3-credit special topics or other themed course focused on Science Fiction and Fantasy Studies, from any department, as approved by the director(s).

Regular English Department course offerings:

ENL 3425: Backgrounds for British and American Literature

LIT 2310: Science Fiction and Fantasy (if approved)

LIT 3333: Literature of Adolescence

LIT 4001: Literary Genres: Horror Fiction

LIT 3344: Detective Fiction**

LIT 4001: Literary Genres: Spy Fiction and Film**

*ENL 3425 is included regardless of theme as this course is usually either themed around mythology (the Epic, Mythology, Metamorphosis) or focused on the Bible as Literature. Science fiction and fantasy are frequently inspired by and draw from mythology, so this course offers an important foundation. Similarly, canonical fantasy such as that by J.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and George MacDonald are heavily influenced by the Bible.

**The courses on Detective Fiction and Spy Fiction appear on this list because of the fundamental interconnectedness of SFF and these neighboring genres, which all emerged in their contemporary forms at the same historical moment and were disseminated via the same media; many pulp authors wrote widely across several of these genres. Courses on these related forms contribute to student training in how to approach questions of genre, formula, and popular fiction common to the study of each, enriching student understanding of SFF and the concept of genre itself. As such, other popular genre-based courses not appearing on this list may also be considered, subject to approval.

<u>Courses outside the Department of English:</u>

PHM 4133: Science Fiction and Philosophy

SPW 4583: Género Policiaco

Other courses from across the College when a topic or theme may be SFFS-related.

<u>Example elective courses requiring approval that may have a related theme:</u>

The courses below are often but not always offered with an SFF theme or considerable SFF content. Students should inquire with the director(s) before registering for one of these courses with the intention of it contributing to ensure you are taking a sections with significant SFF content.

AML 4930: Special Topics
such as "Superhero Comics"

CRW 4930: Special Topics
such as "Fictional Worldbuilding," "Writing Science Fiction," and "Writing Magical Realism"

ENG 3822: Introduction to Literary Studies
when taught by SFF faculty

ENG 4114: Literature and Film

such as “Science Fiction Literature and Film,” “Fantasy Literature and Film,” and “Horror Literature and Film”

ENL 2022: British Literature Since 1798
such as “Ghosts, the Gothic, and the Supernatural”

ENL 4251: Victorian Literature
such as “Victorian Fantastic/Supernatural” and “the Gothic”

ENL 4930: Special Topics
such as past course “21st-Century Medieval Monstrosity”

LIT 4192: Caribbean Literatures in English
such as “Caribbean Folklore”

LIT 4233: Postcolonial Literature
such as “Ghosts”]

LIT 4434: Literature and Environment
such as “Cli-Fi”

LIT 4930: Special Topics
such as “Postapocalyptic Literature,” “Afrofuturisms,” “the Graphic Novel,” and “Latinx SFF”]