Title and Code of Course: Social Imagination of Science Fiction ERPB-BSZOC 9194

Instructor's Name: DUPCSIK, Csaba

Instructor's Email Address: dupcsik@t-online.hu

Credit Point Value: **6**	Number of Lessons per Week: **2**	Type of Course: **Seminar** ☐ **Lecture** ☒	Method of Evaluation: **Written Examination** ☒ **In-Class Presentation** ☐ **+ Paper** ☒

Course Description:

It's funny to see the futuristic images of our ages have made around 1900. Even the SF-authors are the children of their own age, and investigating the classics from another society's viewpoint we could spot the often implicit, hidden, misunderstood, but always very important imprints of the authors' societies. But our half-smile will freeze if we turn to the dystopias of the 20th and 21st centuries: the dreams of the futures have become nightmares. What is the 'call' of fantastic imaginations in the condition of the accelerating changing world? Forecast? Warning? Coping-with therapy? Modern tales with 'useful enchantment' (© by B. Bettelheim)? Or these questions are just the manifestations of the sociologists' envy because science fiction has influenced much-much more strongly the social imagination as the social sciences…?

Of course, on this year there will be a new chapter under the title of *Pandemics in SF*.

For just a little sample of the style of the lecture see a detail of the 'Chapter 4. Making Humans (or Something Similar Ones)' in pdf: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bhklF-kd6slpbwZjWSgB-c2T1fQEHp8N/view?usp=sharing

Bibliography:

- Bould, Mark – Butler, Andrew M. – Roberts, Adam – Vint, Sherryl (eds.) (2009) *The Routledge Companion to Science Fiction.* London – New York: Routledge. ISBN 0-203-87131-6
- Canavan, Gerry – Link, Eric Carl (eds.) (2019) *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1-316-69437-4
  DOI: 10.1017/9781316694374
- Roberts, Adam (2016) *The History of Science Fiction.* Second ed. London: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 978-1-137-56956-1
- the students have to choose a fantastic novel from the teacher's list which will be the topic of their paper; the paper will be prerequisite of the exam