

**works from the second half of the semester:**

W.E.B. Du Bois - "The Comet" (1920)  
Ray Bradbury - "Way in the Middle of the Air" (1950)  
Samuel Delany - "Driftglass" (1967)  
Frederik Pohl - "The Day After the Day After the Martians Came" (1967)  
Ursula Le Guin - "Nine Lives" (1969)  
Joe Haldeman - *The Forever War* (1974)  
James Tiptree, Jr. - "The Screwfly Solution" (1977)  
Spider Robinson - "Melancholy Elephants" (1983)  
Octavia Butler - *Dawn* (1987)  
Maureen McHugh - *China Mountain Zhang* (1992)  
Neal Stephenson - "The Great Simoleon Caper" (1995)  
*Firefly* (2002)  
Brian K. Vaughan and Pia Guerra - *Y: The Last Man* (2002-2008)  
Cory Doctorow - *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* (2003)  
Charles Stross - "MAXOS" (2005)  
*Children of Men* (2006)  
*Portal* (2007)  
*District 9* (2009)  
*The Walking Dead* (2010-present)  
*One Chance* (2010)

- cognitive estrangement, denaturalization, and ideology
- apocalypse, empathy, survival, and ethics
- alienness and otherness
- frontiers
- outlaws, pirates, criminality, and the street
- tools, technology, and ability
- legality and bureaucracy
- double consciousness
- identity (as individual or species): essentialism vs. constructionism vs. practices
- cybernetics and humans as tools
- change and future shock
- technology, evolution, and progress
- video game narratives and the videogameness of apocalypse
- rationalization and ideology's roots in the material
- reproduction and the future
- the nation-state, distributed republics, adhocacy, and anarchy
- social currency and reputation economies
- scarcity and the end thereof
- innovation and optimization, creation and maintenance
- history and the future
- change vs. stasis
- the relationship between the old and the new