Romance is one of the most interesting and historically most popular genres, combining as it does the sheer delights of storytelling with the working out of seemingly endless variations on a few common themes: alienation; the quest; the loss of and search for identity; the incest taboo; magic; disguise; doubling and repetition as a generator of narrative. We will read a number of romances, across a broad historical range, as we explore the genre's distinctive features. The reading will include at least some of the following works: Homer's _Odyssey_; medieval Arthurian romances, including _Sir Gawain and the Green Knight_ and the works of Chrétien de Troyes and Thomas Malory; Shakespeare's late plays, and J.R.R. Tolkien's _Lord of the Rings_. This course fulfills the pre-1860 requirement.

John Fyler
John.fyler@tufts.edu

G+ MW 1:30 – 2:45pm
FEMINIST SCIENCE FICTIONS
ENG0091-02  E+ MW 10:30-11:45  Professor S Hofkosh

Starting with Donna Haraway’s claim in “A Cyborg Manifesto” (1985) that “the boundary between science fiction and social reality is an optical illusion,” this class will explore how the speculative or alien worlds imagined in science fiction literature offer ways to see the familiar or conventional in our own world through new, critical eyes. We will read material that grapples with a range of feminist questions, especially questions about the construction and representation of sex and gender; modes of reproduction both biological and technological; and the politics of post- or trans-humanism. Texts may include novels, stories, hypertext, and essays by Octavia Butler, Samuel Delany, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Donna Haraway, Ursula Le Guin, Mary Shelley, and other writers who continue to reimagine this evolving genre as a form of social critique. Open to all students who have fulfilled the Eng 1 requirement.
Have you forgotten what it means to feel an endless road unwind before you, to sleep under open skies, to find yourself alone in an unknown land? If you spend too much time dreaming about that year abroad, this course may be for you. We’ll read literary travel narratives and reignite our passion for adventure. Come climb icy mountain passes, enter war-torn zones and walk along the edge of our continent with guides like Orwell, Strayed, Matthiessen, Doerr and Byrd. How do these writers understand the longing to leave and once home, how do they translate their experience into prose vibrant enough to transport those temporarily landlocked here at Tufts?

Janis Freedman-Bellow (Janis.Bellow_Freedman@tufts.edu)

F+TR 12:00 – 1:15pm
When current academic theories speak of colonialism at all, they tend to speak of “post-colonialism” or “post-coloniality” and thus help to conceal the current phase of colonial or neo-colonial empire. This course will examine the critical-intellectual politics of ANTI-colonialism – past, present and future-oriented – with a focus on selected figures, positions and movements. The “ANTI-colonial mode of thought” will be engaged to think critically about not only the literary culture but geopolitics, economics, psychologistics and body politics of colonial or neo-colonial Western empire. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

Greg Thomas
Greg.thomas@tufts.edu

J+ TR 3:00 – 4:15pm
Nowadays, many in and outside U.S. circles refer to “the prison industrial complex,” a phrase that literally comes from Wall Street imperialism itself. At least one scholar-activist has criticized this formulation for minimizing, even erasing the continued power of the military-industrial complex in its attempt to grapple with the explosion of prisons as an industry, federal and private, national and international. Before imprisonment would be defined according to recent economics, however, it had already been defined by Black Radical Tradition in terms of enslavement and re-enslavement – the material and symbolic reduction of enslaved Africans to “chattel” for a white world capitalist hegemony. This course confronts the political problematic of prisons without losing sight of the connection between imprisonment and enslavement, past and present. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

Greg Thomas
Greg.thomas@tufts.edu

F+ TR 12:00 – 1:15pm
This seminar introduces students to some of the most important novels of all time -- the masterpieces of 19th-century literary realism. The reading list is pan-Western in its scope. The books to be discussed include Madame Bovary by Gustav Flaubert (France), Anna Karenina by Tolstoy (Russia), Middlemarch by George Eliot (England), Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (England), The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James (US), and Fortunata and Jacinta by Benito Perez Galdós (Spain). Collectively, these novels have come to define the dominant form of the novel as a literary genre. The seminar organizes discussions around formal and rhetorical questions and various historical conditions in the West that gave rise to this literary movement. Many of these discussions will be also informed by an understanding of what came before and after Realism: Romanticism and Modernism. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

Ichiro Takayoshi (Ichiro.takayoshi@tufts.edu)

E+ MW 10:30 – 11:45am