

English 2225: How Other Things Become Science Fiction

Spencer K. Wall, Spring 2023, MW 11:50-1:10

(fulfills HF requirement)



“This is no cave!”

Are you a traveler unsure whether you have moored your ship to dry land or to an immense creature? Then you might be a character out of *Star Wars* or Jules Verne’s *Journey to the Center of the Earth*—but you might also be a character out of the medieval monastic *St. Brendan’s Voyage*, or perhaps a character from a medieval bestiary (which is sort of a moralized encyclopedia of animals). In this course, we will read science fiction in connection with some older, sometimes unlikely influences on the genre.

Each reading in this course will offer its own particular rewards (we’ll read **Jules Verne**, **H.G. Wells**, and the contemporary science-fiction author **Hiroshi Yamamoto**, among others; and we’ll view episodes of ***Star Trek*** and ***Doctor Who***, as well as the film ***Forbidden Planet***). But we can also use this kind of class to rethink some of our assumptions about what makes literature, what makes science fiction and how the two relate.