

## Some summer reading for a new fall course!

### *"Legal Issues in Science Fiction"*

#### **Course Description:**

The course will be a seminar discussion of texts and films (which can include episodes of TV shows you may be familiar with). I have taught and written about law and literature (see: B. Rockwood, *Law and Literature Perspectives*, NY: Peter Lang, 1996) and in particular law in SF for many years. Legal issues from genetic engineering and the nature of being "human," to the legal justification for using the Atomic bomb, to climate change or identifying with the "other" (alien, immigrant, or different persons) to genocide are usefully explored through a critical reading of SF stories, novels and films. The course will expect some familiarity with the genre, and ask that those enrolling read some novels and stories prior to class and come prepared to discuss them.

If you are interested in the class this fall, please read over the summer Kim Stanley Robinson's novel *"Forty Signs of Rain"* either in its original version as the first volume of his *"Science in the Capital"* trilogy, or as the first third of his 2015 revised omnibus edition of the entire trilogy, *"Green Earth"* (Del Rey (November 3, 2015); his *"The Lucky Strike, plus..."*, and Greg Bear's *"Darwin's Radio."* They are available in libraries, as inexpensive paperbacks, or in Kindle editions. Suggestions are welcome. [For example, a comparison of Robert Heinlein's *"Starship Troopers"* with Joe Haldeman's *"The Forever War,"* Orson Scott Card's *"Ender's Game,"* and John Scalzi's *"Old Man's War"* would be interesting to pursue.]

I will have additional information for the CSC website. The class will run in eight sessions from September 19, 2016 – November 14, 2016. [No Class Columbus Day October 10.] It will be held Mondays from 10 to 12:30 at the Friends Meeting House, Damariscotta, Maine. I have set a **Minimum class size** of 6 and, to facilitate discussion, a **Maximum class size of 16. As registration is in September, if more than 16 wish to participate, I will set up a waiting list and also offer the course again in the winter or spring. Right now I simply want to ensure folks interested have time to pick up a few books and read them at the beach or on the plane this summer!**

Those enrolling in the course are encouraged to watch the video or DVD of the films **"Enemy Mine"** and **"Gattaca"** and exchange ideas and interests with the teacher any time: [clan.rockwood@gmail.com](mailto:clan.rockwood@gmail.com) .

I am a member and former Vice President of the *Science Fiction Research Association*. My publications in this area include: Bruce L. Rockwood, "Looking Within: Science Fiction Explores the Future of 'Being Human,'" in Donald M. Hassler and Clyde Wilcox (eds.), *New Boundaries in Political Science Fiction* (Columbia, S.C., University of South Carolina Press: 2008), pp 17-34.

Bruce L. Rockwood, "Science Fiction and the War on Science in Contemporary Society," in Thomas J. Morrissey and Oscar De Los Santos (eds.), *When Genres Collide* (Waterbury, Ct., Fine Tooth Press: 2007), pp 1-16.

Bruce L. Rockwood, "Law, Literature, and Science Fiction: New Possibilities," 23 *Legal Studies Forum* #3 (1999) 267-279.