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# Mars

This course surveys a variety of representations of the planet Mars in novels, short stories, and films produced over the last century in the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. Secondary readings on the scientific investigation of planets and on the cultural study of science will help orient students in the analysis of this singular object onto which a number of timely fantasies and fears have been projected, from realized utopian societies to irrevocable ecological disasters. Over the course of the quarter, students will develop both a deeper understanding of the contextual debates surrounding Mars and its meanings as well as a better grasp on the methodologies used in representing history through this evocatively multidisciplinary planet.

**Sections:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8AM-9:45AM, Merrill Academic 130.

**Optional Film Screenings:** Tuesdays, 6PM-9PM, Earth and Marine Sciences B214.

## Course Requirements.

\***Four** 3-4 page responses.

\*Good attendance (**no more than three absences allowed**) and participation.  
The Tuesday night film screenings **do not count** towards your attendance grade.

\***One** final 10-15 page paper.

## A Note on Plagiarism.

Don't do it. UCSC's guidelines for Academic Integrity are quite specific with regard to cheating and plagiarism, and those guidelines will be taken very seriously in this course. **In a nutshell, plagiarism will adversely affect your grade in this course and your standing at this university.** For Academic Integrity policy, please see [http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic\\_integrity/undergraduate\\_students/](http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/).

## Required Texts (Available at the Literary Guillotine).

Kage Baker, *The Empress of Mars*

Alexander Bogdanov, *Red Star: The First Bolshevik Utopia*

Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*

Edgar Rice Burroughs, *A Princess of Mars*

Philip K. Dick, *Martian Time-Slip*

Frederik Pohl, *Man Plus*

Kim Stanley Robinson, *Red Mars*

Alexei Tolstoy, *Aelita*

H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*

The Course Reader (texts marked with \* can be found in the Reader)

### ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

- 09/22** Introductions, Enrollment Rigmarole, and Opening Lecture  
**Reading:** Camille Flammarion, “The Planet Mars, Miniature of the Earth” (1879); Giovanni Schiaparelli, “The Planet Mars” (1894); selections from Percival Lowell, *Mars* (1895)
- Week One. Imperial Invasions and Men from Mars**
- 09/27** H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds* (1898)  
\*H.G. Wells, “Intelligence on Mars” (1896), “The Crystal Egg” (1897), and “The Things That Live on Mars” (1908)  
\*Raymond Z. Gallun, “Old Faithful” (1934)
- 09/27** **Movie Night:** *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (1976; dir. Nicolas Roeg)
- 09/29** H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds* (1898)  
\*Lester Del Rey, “Dark Mission” (1940)  
\*Fredrik Pohl, “The Day the Martians Came” (1967)  
\*Craig Raine, “A Martian Sends a Postcard Home” (1979)
- Week Two. Utopian and Historical Projections**
- 10/04** Alexander Bogdanov, *Red Star* (1908)
- 10/04** **Movie Night:** *Red Planet Mars* (1952; dir. Harry Horner)
- 10/06** Alexander Bogdanov, *Engineer Menni* (1913)  
\*Selections from Kurd Lasswitz, *Two Planets* (1897)
- Week Three. Planetary Romance and Reconstruction on the Frontier**
- 10/11** Edgar Rice Burroughs, *A Princess of Mars* (1912/1917)  
**FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE**
- 10/11** **Movie Night:** *Robinson Crusoe on Mars* (1964; dir. Byron Haskin)
- 10/13** Edgar Rice Burroughs, *A Princess of Mars* (1912/1917)  
\*Leigh Brackett, “The Sorcerer of Rhiannon” (1942)  
\*Roger Zelazny, “A Rose for Ecclesiastes” (1963)

**Week Four. Romance and Revolution on the Senescent Planet**

- 10/18** Alexei Tolstoy, *Aelita* (1922)  
\*Selections from Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West* (1918)
- 10/18** **Movie Night:** *Aelita* (1924; dir. Yakov Protazanov) and *Interplanetary Revolution* (1924; dirs. Nikolai Khodataev *et al*)
- 10/20** Alexei Tolstoy, *Aelita* (1922)  
\*Selections from Olaf Stapledon, *Last and First Men* (1931)  
\*Stanley Weinbaum, "A Martian Odyssey" (1934)

**Week Five. Post-Colonial Mars?**

- 10/25** Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles* (1950)  
\*Arthur C. Clarke, "How We Went to Mars" (1938)  
\*John Wyndham, "Dumb Martian" (1952)  
**SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE**
- 10/25** **Movie Night:** *Rocketship X-M* (1950; dir. Kurt Neumann)
- 10/27** Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles* (1950)  
\*George O. Smith, "Lost Art" (1943)  
\*H. Beam Piper, "Omnilingual" (1957)  
\*Samuel R. Delany, "High Weir" (1968)

**Week Six. Not the Mars It Ought to Be**

- 11/1** Philip K. Dick, *Martian Time-Slip* (1964)  
\*Philip K. Dick, "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale" (1966)
- 11/1** **Movie Night:** *Total Recall* (1990; dir. Paul Verhoeven)
- 11/3** Philip K. Dick, *Martian Time-Slip* (1964)  
\*Philip K. Dick, "Precious Artifact" (1964)  
\*Philip K. Dick, "A Game of Unchance" (1964)

**Week Seven. Cyborgs on Post-Mariner Mars**

- 11/8** Frederik Pohl, *Man Plus* (1976)  
\*Manfred E. Clynes and Nathan S. Kline, "Cyborgs and Space" (1960)  
\* Walter M. Miller, Jr., "Crucifixus Etiam" (1953)  
**THIRD RESPONSE PAPER DUE**
- 11/8** **Movie Night:** *Red Planet* (2000; dir. Antony Hoffman)
- 11/10** Frederik Pohl, *Man Plus* (1976)  
\*Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century" (1991)  
\*Selections from Ray Bradbury, et al., *Mars and the Mind of Man* (1974)

**Week Eight. Mars, or the Desire Called Utopia (Part I)**

11/15 Kim Stanley Robinson, *Red Mars* (1992)

\*Kim Stanley Robinson, "Exploring Fossil Canyon" (1982)

\*J.G. Ballard, "The Message from Mars" (1992)

11/15 **Movie Night:** *Mission to Mars* (2000; dir. Brian De Palma)

11/17 Kim Stanley Robinson, *Red Mars* (1992)

\*Selections from Bruce M. Jakosky, *The Search for Life on Other Planets* (1998)

**Week Nine. Mars, or the Desire Called Utopia (Part II)**

11/22 Kim Stanley Robinson, *Red Mars* (1992)

\*Various, "Insight: Mars," *Nature* (July 12, 2001)

**FOURTH RESPONSE PAPER DUE**

11/24 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week Ten. Mars, a Company Town**

11/29 Kage Baker, *The Empress of Mars* (2010)

\*Geoffrey Landis, "Falling onto Mars" (2002)

11/29 **Movie Night:** *Ghosts of Mars* (2001; dir. John Carpenter)

12/2 Kage Baker, *The Empress of Mars* (2010)

\*Ian McDonald, "The Old Cosmonaut and the Construction Worker Dream of Mars" (2002)

**FINAL PAPER DUE DATE TBA**



*Schiaparelli Impact Basin on Mars, 3°S/17°E*