

# **FICTIONAL FUTURES**

***The transformative potential of Utopia depends on locating it in the future, on thinking through the process of transformation from the present, and identifying the potential agents of transformation***

***(Levitas, 2003:14 in Dark Horizons)***

## **Introduction**

This project asks you to engage in the fictional futures imagined by Science Fiction. As a literary genre Science Fiction has a long and rich history, producing some of the most intriguing visions of the world. From the gothic writings of Mary Shelley to the cyber-punk scrawling of William Gibson Science Fiction continues to raise questions about contemporary society, the nature of humanity and the never-ending hope for change.

Your brief is to engage with an imagined future and to design for a fictional world. Although Science Fiction creates fantastical places, your response needn't be so – you may choose to focus on the everyday routine and action of the occupants in your fictional world. The main aim of the brief is to allow you to engage creatively with the use and invention of new technologies, although the brief comes from a place of the imagination, the technologies that you use and create can be sited in real and rational developments.

## **Select... [deadline – 13.01.06]**

Select a Science Fiction novel of your choice, remember to select carefully as this will either aid or impede your project.

## **Read... [deadline – 18.01.06]**

Read your book, remember to be critical in your reading – what is the world that the author is describing? Where has this come from? How is it related to today? What powers are at play?

## **Analyse... [deadline – 19.01.06]**

*Before a story can be followed or a character understood the fictive world itself must be indulged in, grasped, learned, and detailed in readers' own minds.* (Moynan, 2000:5-6) Prepare and present a synopsis of your book to the group.

## **Extract and Represent... [deadline – 26.01.06]**

Present to the group the interesting technologies, social implications of these technologies and possible ideas and concepts found within your book. Remember this has to be a designed representation of the interesting elements within your book – the representation can come in the form of a set of drawings, a film, an animation etc.

## **Think and create... [deadline – 9.02.06]**

Present your concepts, proposals and scenarios – these should be well thought through and presented to a high quality of finish. Ensure that you communicate the narrative behind the ideas. This stage should include concept sketches, models, maquettes and mock-ups.

## **Design... [deadline – 23.03.06]**

Having selected your most successful concept move it forward into a final design. Design development is the focus for this stage of the project. Your final work will be presented to the group in a crit situation.

***A storm is blowing from paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. The storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.***

***(Walter Benjamin, Theses on the Philosophy of History, 1939)***