Courses in English

A Eng 243
Literature and Film: First Contact (3)
Moments of first contact between cultures form an integral part of our history. Although often ensconced in a historical perspective that makes their outcomes seem inevitable, these moments are also riddled with potential: the meeting could be violent, or peaceful; it could result in cooperation and recognition or oppression and discrimination. Literature and film offer opportunities for us to revisit past moments of contact in order to explore these decisive moments and examine the possibilities that history may not have pursued. These genres also allow us to contemplate what might happen in future instances of first contact, through the lens of science fiction. This course will examine these moments—real and imaginary—in order to understand how film and literature function as critical tools for approaching history and considering futurity. The content of this course will range from the mythologized (Christopher Columbus and Ridley Scott’s 1492: The Conquest of Paradise; Pocahontas and Terrence Malick’s The New World) to the as-yet unexplored (the future of the planet and Pixar’s WALL-E).

(1883) Jacques, Christopher
6 Week 3: July 8-August 16
MTWThF 11:00a.m.-12:20p.m.
HU-111