This course investigates how classic and contemporary science fiction deals with issues of artificial intelligence; altered consciousness; virtual realities; issues of race, gender, and difference; and alternate worlds. Why are we surrounded by science fiction movies, books, and games? What do we search for in the worlds created by these authors? How does science fiction respond to our concerns about technology, the human, and planetary survival. How should we define the literary, the social, and the personal when reading science fiction? Texts we will likely investigate include *Frankenstein* (Shelley); *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (Dick); *Patternmaster* (Butler); *The Fifth Season*, (Jemisin); *The Mexican Flyboy* (Véa); and films such as *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968); and *Moon* (2009). In addition to essay assignments, students will also be expected to participate in lively class discussions, presentations, and perhaps a creative project. (*“Non-Cyborg Humans”: humans able to function without smartphones.*)