



WEST 3900

ROBOTS, FUTURES AND ASIAN AMERICA

This course explores why Asian Americans are closely associated with technology. Asian Americans, like representations of robots, have been characterized as futuristic laborers, immigrants, second-class citizens, and emotionless, machine-like automatons. Through an overarching theme of Techno-orientalism—exotification of Asians through a technological future—we will explore the intersection of technology and racialization. We will cover a range of texts: from short fiction by Jack London and Timothy Yu to sci-fi films *Blade Runner* and *The Matrix*; from cloning and queer love in *Salt Fish Girl* to environmental collapse in *On Such a Full Sea*. We will examine these works and more as we consider how connections between a history of Yellow Peril and issues of technology, labor, globalization, and (im)migration manifest in figures like the intellectual villain, imperializing alien, and emotionless robot

Spring 2023
Friday 1050am to 130pm
Face to Face
Dr. Sidne Lyon

This course meets the Creative
and Artistic Expression
Substantive Area requirement
for WEST majors