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.