Native American artists from painters to filmmakers have found in the genre of science fiction a profoundly ripe stage for the exploration of Native representation and artistic exploration. Following historically on other ethnic futurist projects such as Afrofuturism and LatinXfuturism, Indigenous Futurism shares certain sensibilities with these related aesthetic forms, most especially as a strategy of post-colonial clapback against the white-washing tendencies of the majority of popular speculative art throughout the 20th and into the 21st century. Nevertheless, Indigenous Futurism marshalls the field of SF/Futurism in critically different ways unique to the history and relationship of Native America and American popular culture.

This course examines Native authors, filmmakers, and visual/multimedia artists in order to evolve an understanding of the character of the field of Indigenous Futurism and why it operates as a critical strategic negotiation site for the representation of Native people in contemporary American culture.