Retro Sci-Fi and the Steampunk Aesthetic

Science fiction is the most important literature in the history of the world because it’s the history of ideas, the history of our civilization birthing itself.

—Ray Bradbury

This salon will explore science fiction that plants our speculations about future worlds into an aesthetic of a retro past in order to discover what this juxtaposition of far-flung time periods can show us about present-day human psychology, culture, and progress. Steampunk, dystopias, and space westerns will transport us to unfamiliar frontiers where we’ll seek to discover whether everything old really can be made new again.

We will finalize our reading/viewing list once the semester begins, but possible texts include:

**Texts**

**Films & Television**
*Dark City*. Dir. Alex Proyas. 1998.