

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Overview

- Session 1 – Lecture on genre
- Session 2 - All You Zombies
- Session 3 - 1632 Parts 1-4
- Session 4 - 1632 Parts 5-7 and open discussion

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Session 1

- Introduction and readings
- Scope
- Category
- History of genre
- [Representative authors](#)
- [Timeline of representative stories](#)
- Representative movies and TV shows
- Mechanism
- Issues
- Tropes
- References

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Scope

- Bidirectional
- Transfer of matter or information into the past by natural means
- Long Sleeps and time dilation don't count
- Exceptions
  - Stories important in the history of the genre
  - Stories too well known to ignore

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction Category

- Immutable time
- (space-time view)
- Mutable time
- (branched space-time)

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## History of genre

- Supernatural
  - Oedipus Rex
    - Sophocles
      - Oedipus the King
    - Tom Lehrer
      - [http://www.lyricsfreak.com/t/tom+lehrer/oedipus+rex\\_20138385.html](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/t/tom+lehrer/oedipus+rex_20138385.html)
      - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mScdJURKGWM>
- Ad hoc
  - A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- Pseudo-scientific techno-babble
- New Physics
- FTL signals in Special Relativity
- General Relativity

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Representative movies and shows

- [12 Monkeys](#)
- [About Time](#)
- [Back to the Future](#)
- [Doctor Who](#)
- [Peabody's Improbable History](#)  
Segment in [Rocky and His Friends](#) and [The Bullwinkle Show](#)
- [Peggy Sue Got Married](#)
- [The Terminator](#)
- [The Time Traveler's Wife](#)

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Mechanism

- Hand waving
- New physics
- Special Relativity
  - Tachyons
- General Relativity
  - Gödel metric
  - Tipler cylinder
  - Wormholes

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Issues

- Subjective time
- Conservation



# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Tropes

- .Temporal Inertia
- .Legal issues
- .Meddling
- .[Time wars](#)
- .[Paradoxes](#)
- .[Bootstrap paradox](#), or [Predestination paradox](#)
- .[Grandfather paradox](#)
- .Secrecy
- .Stranded
- .Time Police
- .Exploitation

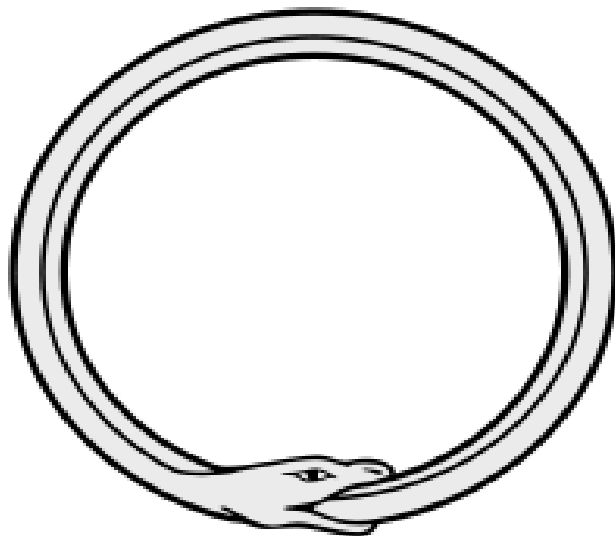
# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## References

- <http://en.wikipedia.org>
  - [Bootstrap paradox](#)
  - [Grandfather paradox](#)
  - [List of 1632 characters](#)
  - [List of 1632 characters \(fictional\)](#)
  - [Predestination paradoxes in popular culture](#)
  - [Time travel in fiction](#)
  - [Time travel themes](#)
  - [Time travel in novels and short stories](#)
- [Storypilot list of stories](#)
- [1632 character grid](#)
- [1632 Teachers Guide](#)

F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
Session 2  
All You Zombies

- Play [audio recording](#)
- Play [short movie version](#)
- *I'm My Own Grandpa*
  - [Lyrics](#) At <http://gean.wwco.com/grandpa/>
  - [Play](#)
- Play alternate [short movie version](#)
- Discussion



# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Session 2 Discussion Points

### All You Zombies

- What do you think of the action?
- What do you think of the characterization?
- Was the sequence of events plausible?
- Did you see it coming?
- Was the behavior of the character(s) plausible?
- How did the movie compare to the story?



F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
Session 2  
All You Zombies (concluded)



F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
**Sessions 3-4**



# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Sessions 3-4

### Discussion points

- What do you think of the action?
- The characterization?
- Was the behavior of the characters plausible?
- Was the behavior of the characters appropriate?
- Was the depiction of historical characters accurate?
- How did the size of Grantville affect events?

# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Session 3

### 1632 Part One, chapters 1-14

- Initial reaction to the ring of fire
- Battles at farmhouse
- Rebecca's reactions
- Mike's reactions
- Town meeting
- Cabinet meeting
- Lapse of continuity between chapters 8 and 9
- Gustavus II Adolphus
- Reaction of Mackay's troops
- Reaction of Mackay to uptimers
- Meetings at the Roth's



# F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction

## Session 3 discussion points

[1632](#) Part Two, chapters 15-33

- Camp followers
- Battle of the Crapper
- [Gretchen](#)
- [Jeff](#)
- [Melissa](#)
- Showers
- Cafeteria
- Proposal and aftermath
- Choosing of the Living
- Wedding and family

F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
Session 3 discussion points  
1632 Parts 3-4, chapters 34-44

- Battle of Breitenfeld
- Gretchen Richter
- Julie Sims
- Alexander Mackay
- Battle of Jena
- Committee of Correspondence
- Abrabanel family
- Diplomatic and political maneuvering
- Club 250, Thuringen Gardens and the elections

F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
Session 4 discussion points

1632 Parts 5-6, chapters 45-58

- Diplomatic maneuvering
- Nobility
- Gustav
- Julie
- Wartburg
- Croat raid

F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
Session 4 discussion points

[1632](#) Part Seven, chapters 59-61

- The deal
  - From the perspective of Grantville
  - From Gustav's perspective

F402 Time Travel in Science Fiction  
Session 4  
wrap-up

- [1632](#) Retrospective
  - How was the story affected by Flint's choice of Grantville, Thuringia and the 17<sup>th</sup> Century?
  - How might the story have played out differently with other choices?
- Other stories
- Reprise of Session 1