

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Course : IDE 466 Utopia and Dystopia
Instructor : Dr. Emine ŞENTÜRK
Year/Term : 2019-2020 Spring
Office Hours : Tuesday 15.30-17.20 / Wednesday 11.30-12.20

I. Aim of the Course:

This course aims to introduce the students to the historical development of utopian and dystopian literature. Beginning from the myths, the pursuit of the ideal (ideal social order, governmental structure, economy, technology, education, etc) through different eras will be analysed to identify what “utopia” is as term coined by Thomas More. The utopian vision was evolved into a darker version, especially in the second half of the twentieth century. This kind of representation instead of utopic visions in recent decades will be questioned in this course by keeping in mind the concerns of totalitarian regimes, environmental degradation, racial issues, gender issues, and technological development/dependence. This course will be followed in interdisciplinary basis; therefore, in addition to the literary works by Thomas More, Aldous Huxley, Anthony Burgess, George Orwell, H. G. Wells, Margaret Atwood, Kazuo Ishiguro, the movies like *Metropolis*, *Wall-E*, *Equilibrium*, *Hunger Games*, *The Truman Show*, *Her*, and even TV-series like *Westworld* and *Black Mirror* will be covered.

II. Course Outline:

- Week I (Feb 10-14)** Introductory discussion: aim, objectives and content of the course
- Week II (Feb 17-21)** General introduction to the concepts of utopia and dystopia and the problematic process of defining these two terms
- Week III (Feb 25-Mar 1)** Definition of Dystopia and the Chronological Background of Dystopian Fiction
- Week IV (Mar 2-Mar 6)** Background of Dystopian Fiction
- Week V (Mar 9-13)** Theoretical framework + Thomas More’s *Utopia* (1516)
- Week VI (Mar 16-20)** Tommaso Campanella’s *The City of the Sun* (1602) + Student Presentation
- Week VII (Mar 23-27)** Francis Bacon’s *New Atlantis* (1626) + Student Presentation
- Week VIII (Mar 30-Apr 3)** Discussion on E. M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops” (1909)
- Week IX (Apr 6-10)** Discussion on E. M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops” (1909) + Student Presentation and if time permits, Eugenics, Cloning and Posthumanism in *Brave New World* (1932)
- Week X (Apr 13-17)** Eugenics, Cloning and Posthumanism in *Brave New World* (1932) + Student Presentation
- Week XI (Apr 20-24)** Discussion on George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty Four* (1949)
- Week XII (Apr 27-May 1)** Discussion on George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty Four* (1949) + Student Presentation
- Week XIII (May 4-8)** Feminist Dystopia and Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985) + Student Presentation
- Week XIV (May 11-15)** Alternative Student Presentation
- Week XV (May 18-22)** General Discussion

III. Textbook:

Selected works will be collected by the students if not stated otherwise and relevant materials will be provided by the instructor.

IV. Method of Instruction:

This course will be conducted through student presentation, discussions and in the form of lectures. The students are expected to come to the class having read the assigned material as it is essential to take part in all kinds of class activities and discussions. The course will be supported through such visual materials as documentaries, movies, and videos, which will be shown and/or assigned to the students periodically throughout the semester.

V. Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and active participation. Attendance is compulsory. The students are expected to come to the class, having read the assigned material. For each reading material, they are supposed to prepare discussion questions either individually or as a group, and they are expected to participate in class discussions and group activities.

No cell phones and other phones use are allowed in the class. Use of interactive technology is allowed only when it is required for the assignment, for contacting group members or research (Place devices under your seat during lectures). Photos or video may not be taken in class without prior permission (personal use only allowed in emergency).

VI. Evaluation:

Reflection papers	: 10% (2 pts each) (A critical question and answer + a significant quotation and explanation)
Secondary Source	: 5% (the source list will be sent by the professor)
Short Story	: 20% (any other genre can also be chosen in the process)
Presentation	: 20% (individual or group)
Final Paper	: 45% (will be written in accordance with the MLA 8 th edition regulations, necessary information related to the assignment will be sent by the professor)

Important Notice: If a student is absent and misses an exam s/he will automatically fail unless s/he brings an officially signed medical excuse form from a state authorized hospital or clinic. In that case the official form will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Faculty for their review. If the Committee accepts the form, the student and the instructor will arrange a date for a make-up exam. **Note that make-up exam questions will be prepared at the same level as the original exam questions.**

Note: All these items including the course outline, evaluation percentages, and mid-term dates are subject to change depending upon the circumstances and the students will be informed about the changes by the instructor in advance. Additional content, essays, movies, etc. will be provided by the instructor.

Additional issues:

Academic honesty: all work you turn in for this class must be your own work, with all outside references sources properly cited and acknowledged.

Suggested Reading List

Bauman, Zygmunt. "Living in Utopia." London School of Economics, London. 27 Oct. 2005.
Lecture. PDF file.

Claeys, Gregory, ed. *Encyclopaedia of Nineteenth-Century Thought*. Routledge, 2005..

---, "News from Somewhere: Enhanced Sociability and the Composite Definition of

- Utopia and Dystopia." *History: The Journal of the Historical Association*. Blackwell, 2013. 145-173.
- . *Searching for Utopia: The History of an Idea*. Thames Hudson, 2011.
- . "The Origins of Dystopia: Wells, Huxley and Orwell." *The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature*. Ed. Gregory Claeys. Cambridge UP, 2010. 107-135.
- , ed. *Utopias of the British Enlightenment*. Cambridge UP, 1994. vii-xxix.
- Claeys, Gregory and Lyman Tower Sargent, eds. *The Utopia Reader*. New York UP, 1999.
- Fukuyama, Francis. *Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2002.
- Gordin, Michael D., Helen Tilley and Gyan Prakash, eds. *Utopia / Dystopia: Conditions of Historical Possibility*. Princeton UP, 2010.
- Gottlieb, Erika. *Dystopian Fiction East and West: Universe of Terror and Trial*. McGill-Queen's UP, 2001.
- Hanson, Clare. *Eugenics, Literature and Culture in Post-War Britain*. Routledge, 2013.
- Hayles, Katherine N. *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*. U of Chicago P, 1999.
- Hillegas, Mark R. *The Future as Nightmare: H. G. Wells and the Anti-utopians*. Southern Illinois UP, 1974.
- Jameson, Fredric. *Archaeologies of the Future: The Desire Called Utopia and Other Science Fictions*. Verso, 2005.
- Kumar, Krishan. "Utopia and Anti-Utopia in the Twentieth Century." *Utopia: The Search for the Ideal Society in the Western World*. Eds. Roland Schaer, Gregory Claeys, and Lyman Tower Sargent. Oxford UP, 2000. 251-267.
- . *Utopianism*. U of Minnesota P, 1991.
- Levitas, Ruth. "Educated Hope: Ernst Bloch on Abstract and Concrete Utopia." *Utopian Studies*. 1.2 (1990): 13-26. JSTOR.
- . *The Concept of Utopia*. Philip Allan, 1990.
- Moylan, Tom. *Scraps of the Untainted Sky: Science Fiction, Utopia, Dystopia*. Westview. 2000.
- Plato. *The Republic of Plato*. Trans. Benjamin Jowett. 3rd ed. Clarendon, 1935.
- Sargent, Lyman Tower. "Authority and Utopia: Utopianism in Political Thought." *Polity*. 14.4 (1982): 565-584. JSTOR.
- . *British and American Utopian Literature 1516-1975: An Annotated Bibliography*. G. K. Hall, 1979. ix-xxii.
- . "Do Dystopias Matter?" *Dystopia(n) Matters On the Page, on Screen, on Stage*. Ed. Fátima Vieira. Cambridge, 2013.
- . "The Three Faces of Utopianism Revisited." *Utopian Studies*. 5.1 (1994): 1-37. JSTOR.
- . *Utopianism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford UP, 2010.
- Somay, Bülent. *The View from the Masthead: Journey through Dystopia towards an Open-Ended Utopia*. İstanbul Bilgi UP, 2010.
- Suvin, Darko. *Metamorphoses of Science Fiction: On the Poetics and History of a Literary Genre*. Yale UP, 1979.
- Vieira, Fátima. "The Concept of Utopia." *The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature*. Ed. Gregory Claeys. Cambridge UP, 2010. 3-27.