

HPEN6010/5010 Dreams and Nightmares: Exploring utopian and dystopian writing

Oct 22 – Nov 16

Try to prepare as well as possible. Use the preparation week to read as much as you can that you haven't managed to read beforehand. But make notes or you will forget what you've read. You cannot afford to be left behind as you won't have time to recover.

The focus in these short block modules is on student centred and led learning so that you will devise your own question
Once the 4 week teaching block has begun you must write and post a blog of 200 words minimum every day.

Making notes on both individual texts and secondary reading like this will enable you to engage with the core subject of the module, will serve as essential preparation for the essay/s to follow – and avoid the mistake of writing about one or two texts in isolation. Mulling over the work and responding to it will help you decide which issues are significant and thus enable you to formulate an area for research.

ASSESSMENT : Two essays By the end of the first week you should have developed an idea about the area on which you would like to focus; by the end of the second you should have completed and submitted the first essay; by the end of the third week you should have built on your understanding; by the end of the fourth you will have completed the assessment of the module by submitting your second.

PREPARATION WEEK

Text(s)	General Context (s)	Consider and write daily blog
Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i> 1518 Charlotte Perkins Gilman <i>Herland</i>.1915 Fritz Lang, <i>Metropolis</i> (1927) Alduous Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> 1932 George Orwell, <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>,1949 Anthony Burgess, <i>A Clockwork Orange</i>,1962 Ursula Le Guin, <i>The Dispossessed</i>, 1974 Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>, 1985 Russel Hoban, <i>Riddely Walker</i> 1980	Renaissance totalitarianism – religious polarization. feminist and anti slavery, writing gender the impact of WW1; Influence of soviets, ; the ideal and the savage beautiful and sublime (legacy of Romantics) Function of narratives – the rise and fear of / Technology Impact WW2 State communism, Focus on language and expression New ideas of the mind and mind control Cold war Nuclear threat Environmental catastrophe	What is a utopia and what a dystopia? More – establishing a discourse and function of utopia Differences from novel? Role allocated to 1. Character 2. Relationships 3. Plot, 4. Conflict 5. Resolution

DAILY BREAKDOWN

WEEK ONE	Day	Text(s)	Focus	Student leads
	Mon	Introduction: Ideas and extracts - Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i> 1518 - Fritz Lang, <i>Metropolis</i>	More – establishing a discourse and function of utopia Differences from novel Problems= of individual desire	
			Preparation or next class: Make notes for discussion – read <i>Herland</i> and some criticism	200 word daily blog
	Tues	Charlotte Perkins Gilman <i>Herland</i> .1915	similar issues – how is this a utopia? What is its function? issues of utopian thinking and politics; feminist and anti slavery, writing gender the impact of WW1	
			Preparation for next class Read <i>Brave New World</i> Make notes for discussion	200 word daily blog
	Thur	Alduous Huxley, <i>Brave New World</i> 1932 Technological utopia The place of the wild	What is a utopia and what a dystopia? Influence of soviets, Function of narratives – the ideal and the savage – looks back to Romantics – beautiful and sublime	
			Preparation for next class Read <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> Make notes - differences	200 word daily blog
	Fri	George Orwell, <i>Nineteen Eighty-</i>		

		<i>Four</i> , 1949	Preparation for next class <i>Make notes</i>	200 word daily blog
WEEK TWO	Mon	Discussion and view	Understanding utopia and dystopia. Watch <i>Bladerunner</i> Discuss and formulate topic for essay	
			Preparation for next class Read <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> <i>Make notes for discussion</i>	200 word daily blog
	Tues	Anthony Burgess, <i>A Clockwork Orange</i> , 1962	Utopia and mind control Contexts and rise of youth culture Develop ideas	
			Preparation for next class <i>Make notes for discussion</i>	200 word daily blog
	Thur	Discussion	Writing in class	
			Preparation WORKING ON ESSAY Send plan for feedback Thursday evening	200 word daily blog
	Fri	Independent writing	Tutor available for discussion	
			FIRST ASSESSMENT DUE SUNDAY NIGHT	200 word daily blog
WEEK THREE	Mon	Fantasy and sci fi; imagining other	After the 60s After the moon landing	

WEEK 10		worlds	Environmentalism and consumerism	
			Preparation for next class Read <i>The Dispossessed</i> Make notes on how it deals with the issues you explored in your essay	200 word daily blog
	Tues	Ursula Le Guin, <i>The Dispossessed</i> , (1974)	Revisiting the question of the individual and the mass	
			Preparation for next class Read <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Notes on differences and similarities with <i>The Dispossessed</i>	200 word daily blog
	Thur	Ursula Le Guin, <i>The Dispossessed</i> , / Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> , (19		
			Preparation for next class Read <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Make notes	200 word daily blog
	Fri	Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> ,	Environmental disaster rise of totalitarianism Past and present blur. The rise of the religious right, anxiety about fertility and 'being swamped', attacks on non traditional sexual orientation, divorce, abortion and all women's rights. Reassertion of binaries and hierarchies	
			Preparation for next class Read <i>Riddely Walker</i> Make notes	)
	Mon	Russel Hoban, <i>Riddely Walker</i>	Post apocalyptic vision rooted in the past. Past and present blur the significance of narrative in asserting Degeneration of language and the return to myth as explanatory model. Language and narrative	
			Preparation	200 word

			START WORK ON ESSAY <i>Make notes</i>	daily blog
Tues	Key ideas	Discussion and contrast of last three texts		
		WORK ON DRAFT OF SECOND ESSAY		
Thur	Independent writing	Writing in or outside of class. Tutor available for discussion		
		Preparation working on essay Send plan for feedback Thursday evening		
Fri	Independent writing	Independent writing		
		SECOND ESSAY DUE MIDNIGHT SUNDAY NIGHT		