

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Course : IDE 466 Utopia and Dystopia
Instructor : Assist. Prof. Dr. Emine ŞENTÜRK
Year/Term : 2017-2018 Spring
Office Hours : Monday 13.30-15.20 / Wednesday 15.30-17.20 / Friday 17.30-19.20

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 for the Morning Class:

- Week I (Feb 5-9)** Introductory discussion: aim, objectives and content of the course
- Week II (Feb 12-16)** General introduction to the concepts of utopia and dystopia and the problematic process of defining these two terms
- Week III (Feb 19-23)** Theoretical framework + Thomas More’s *Utopia*
- Week IV (Feb 26-Mar 2)** Discussion on E. M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops”
- Week V (Mar 5-9)** Eugenics, Cloning and Posthumanism in *Brave New World*
- Week VI (Mar 12-16)** Presentation and analysis of Aldous Huxley *Brave New World*
- Week VII (Mar 19-23)** Presentation and analysis of George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty Four* and Anthony Burgess’s *A Clockwork Orange*
- Week VIII (Mar 26-30)** Discussion on George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty Four* and Anthony Burgess’s *A Clockwork Orange*
- Week IX (Apr 2-6)** Presentation and analysis of Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*
- Week X (Apr 9-13)** Discussion on Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*
- Week XI (Apr 16-20)** No class (IDEA Conference)
- Week XII (Apr 23-27)** Presentation and analysis of Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* and *Children of Men*
- Week XIII (Apr 30-May 4)** Feminist Dystopia and Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*
- Week XIV (May 7-11)** Presentation and analysis of Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Never Let Me Go*
- Week XV (May 14-18)** Posthumanism and Cloning in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Never Let Me Go*

III. Course Outline for the Evening Class:

- Week I (Feb 5-9)** Introductory discussion: aim, objectives and content of the course
- Week II (Feb 12-16)** General introduction to the concepts of utopia and dystopia and the problematic process of defining these two terms
- Week III (Feb 19-23)** Theoretical framework + Thomas More’s *Utopia*
- Week IV (Feb 26-Mar 2)** Presentation and analysis of E. M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops,” *Wall-E*, *Matrix*
- Week V (Mar 5-9)** E. M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops”

Week VI (Mar 12-16) Presentation and analysis of Aldous Huxley *Brave New World* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*

Week VII (Mar 19-23) Eugenics, Cloning and Posthumanism in *Brave New World* and *Never Let Me Go*

Week VIII (Mar 26-30) Presentation and analysis of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*

Week IX (Apr 2-6) Presentation and analysis of Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange* and Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*

Week X (Apr 9-13) Presentation and analysis of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* and *Black Mirror*

Week XI (Apr 16-20) No class (IDEA Conference)

Week XII (Apr 23-27) Discussion on George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*

Week XIII (Apr 30-May 4) Presentation and analysis of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Hillary Jordan's *When She Woke*

Week XIV (May 7-11) Feminist Dystopia and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

Week XV (May 14-18) Ecological Dystopia

IV. Textbook:

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

V. 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.

VI. 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).

VII. Evaluation:

Presentation	: 20%
Reflection papers	: 10% (2pts for each)
Midterm Paper	: 30%
Final Paper	: 40%

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.