



ENGL3040 Special Topic in Literature II: Utopian Narratives with Prof M.Y. Chiu

Meditations on the future, serious or ironic, reveal much about the present. In this course we will study texts that imagine alternative worlds. Utopian writing is varied but at its core is the desire to examine the socio-political institutions of its time through an engagement with contemporary ideological and intellectual issues and debates. Issues such as the authority of the state, the impact of technology, and the role of the individual in society are some prominent themes common to the works we will study.

Primary Texts: *Utopia* by Thomas More; *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley; *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell; *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood; *Gattaca* (film); a selection of short stories and films may also be adopted as supplementary material.

Assessment: Classes will be conducted in a combination of lectures and seminars. Participation in class discussions will form an important part of the overall assessment. You will be expected to make formal presentations and write reports and responses. A major component of your assessment will be in the form of a formal essay. Note: the reading requirement for this course is heavy (but rewarding).

Prerequisites: ENGL1000 or ENGL1001 or permission of the instructor

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