

Concepts of Utopia

Instructors: Wende Ballew
Reforming Arts, Inc.
Fall Quarter 2015

Fridays 3rd Track
Class: PMS 147

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course analyzes how Utopia is conceptualized through film, documents, and literature. Historical as well as contemporary representations of Utopia and dystopia will be discussed.

REQUIRED TEXT:

- More, Thomas. *Utopia*
- *Herland*

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To be able to critically evaluate how utopia is represented in films and literature
- To communicate clearly and accurately in written work and class discussions
- To recognize the ideologies and values implicit in films and literature
- Employ *critical thinking skills* including the ability to see multiple sides of issues, identify solutions to complex problems, and evaluate the quality of opinions and facts
- *Research* and *write* a college level paper
- Give an *oral presentation*

REFORMING ARTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Philosophy on Education and Learning: Each Facilitator and participant is respected as both teacher and a learner. The women participating in this class are seen as experts of their own lives who will develop their own solutions to problems as they define them, not as passive participants needing to be “saved” by the facilitator.

Anti-Racism/Sexism/Classism/Ageism/Heteronormism/Ableism: Reforming Arts does not support oppression. Therefore, this curriculum is infused with ideology that recognizes the inherent dignity and equality of every person. No one is considered superior or inferior to others because of race, sex, economic class, age, religious beliefs, sexuality, physical or mental characteristics, education level, or criminal justice classification. Therefore, participants are encouraged to enter into discussions with an open mind and to listen to each other. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the class. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of this compact. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the class.

Lock Down

If a student misses a class because she was in lockdown, she will be required to provide Wende a two page explanation of how her actions contributed to being locked up before returning to class.

Any student who receives a DR for violence will be removed from the class immediately and will not be re-emitted for at least six months.

CLASS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Class sessions will consist of lectures, class discussions, films, and written assignments to be completed outside of class. Additionally, you will participate in an oral presentation project during the quarter.

- Arrive **on time** and stay until dismissal.
- Bring your **textbook** and notebook to every class.
- Come to class **prepared** to take notes, participate in the discussion, and complete activities/assignments.
- No **sleeping** or heads on the desk.
- **Engage!** Be an active learner.
- **Be respectful of your instructor and classmates and remain open to diverse perspectives. We are all different and we are all learning!**
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that shows respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to participate.
- **Keep copies of all your written work.**

Attendance

- You are expected to come to every class. More than two unexcused or three excused absences will result in a participation rather than completion certificate for the class.
- If you miss class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find out what you missed. I suggest you trade name and contact information with a class member to provide you with information on what you missed, but it is not their responsibility to get the information to you.
- **Please let me know—as soon as possible—if you will miss class.**

Missed Assignments

- Missed in-class quizzes, insights, in-class assignments and activities **may not** be made up.
- Missed homework\written assignments due to an absence will not be made up without prior arrangements with the instructor or an excused absence (medical condition or court appearance, for example). Homework is due on the assigned date whether or not you are in class.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless stated otherwise.
- Oral presentations **may not** be made up without documentation of an extreme medical emergency.
- The instructor may choose to create new assignments and tests for students eligible for makeup work.
- All assignments must be completed and submitted in order to receive a completion certificate.

Disability issues

If you have any form of disability or impairment and need any special assistance, please let me know at the beginning of the semester. I cannot help you if you do not talk to me. I assure you that anything you tell me in confidence will remain in confidence.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Journal

It is advised that All students keep a “free writing” journal that details class discussions, films watched, and readings.

Homework and In-class assignments

You are responsible for all assigned readings. Throughout the quarter, you will be asked to participate in individual and group class activities to enhance and demonstrate your understanding of the many topics covered in this course. Assignments may include textbook activities, pop responses, role play, debates, and prompted reflections.

Final Presentations and Papers

Each student will submit a final paper at the end of the quarter. This paper will analyze the concept of Utopia. It must contain references to the underlying theories/ideologies of utopia as well as examples of readings and films from the quarter.

A Note About Writing Assignments:

Writing skills are essential and will be practiced in many of your classes. Writing is a developed skill and each student will be expected to improve their skills in each class.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the quality and effort demonstrated in the journal writings, homework, oral presentations, in-class assignments, and class discussions. Each student is encouraged to put serious and consistent effort into the class by reading slowly and often. A certificate of completion will be given to each student at the end of the quarter that has demonstrated an understanding of the materials, has turned in all assignments, and meets the attendance requirement. Certificates of completion count for 3 hours of credit within Reforming Arts’ internal tally. A certificate of participation will be given to students who do not meet all requirements but shows effort. Certificates of participation do not carry any credit hours and students will be expected to repeat the course.

Course Calendar

This calendar is tentative and may be amended. You will be notified of any changes. Unless otherwise noted, the readings are from *Course Packet* and *Justice*.

Date	Main Topic	Readings*
10/9	Introductions	Syllabus

10/16	Watch: <i>Divergent</i>	Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" "The Declaration of Independence"
10/23	Watch: <i>The Hunger Games</i>	<i>Utopia</i>
10/30	Watch: <i>The Hunger Games</i>	<i>Utopia</i>
11/6	Watch: <i>The Hunger Games</i>	Engels, "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific" Wilshire, <i>Why a Workingman Should Be a Socialist</i>
11/13	Watch: <i>The Hunger Games</i>	Gilman, <i>Herland</i> Gilman, <i>Women and Economics</i> , Proem and Preface Gilman, <i>Women and Economics</i> , Chapter I Gilman, <i>Women and Economics</i>
11/20	Watch: <i>The Hunger Games</i>	Gilman, <i>Herland</i>
12/4	Final Paper due, Presentations	
12/11	Presentations	

*All assigned readings are expected to be completed before class on the day we will be discussing them. Pop quizzes may be given on due dates of assigned readings before the material is covered in class. Be prepared to discuss the readings when you come to class. This schedule is tentative and subject to change.