TERM: Winter Term 2017
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael E. Gardiner
OFFICE: SSC 5424 (519 661-2111, ex. 85139; e-mail: megardin@uwo.ca)
CLASS TIME & LOCATION: Thursdays from 1:30 - 4:30 pm in SH 2348
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS
TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Utopian studies is a vast and growing area. This will be an interdisciplinary course concentrating on four main areas: i) the intellectual and historical contexts that helped to produce the Western utopian tradition under the regime of modernity; ii) an examination of the main C19th and C20th theorists of utopia, especially Marx and Engels, Mannheim, Benjamin, Bloch, Marcuse, Jameson, and Ricoeur; iii) utopia and its appropriation by various ‘isms’, including feminism, anarchism and postmodernism; and iv) current debates within utopian studies, including arguments for and against utopianism, alternative conceptions of utopia (such as the ‘critical’ or ‘dialectical’ utopia), dystopia and the question of violence, the relation between utopianism, technology and mass culture, and the future of utopia.

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

This course is seminar-based, and hence reading and writing intensive. The required readings are intended to give students as broad a comprehension of the key debates and issues in each area of utopian studies as possible. Each student will be expected to give two oral presentations based on class readings, and submit this in written form a week after the presentation (6-8 pages typed, double-spaced, 12-scale font, 2400-2800 words); each will be worth 15% of the final grade. One of these presentations can constitute the basis of the major term paper. Students will also be expected to write one term paper due Monday 17th April by 4 p.m. (20-25 pages typed, double-spaced, 12-scale font, 8,000-10,000 words), worth 55% of the total grade. Students are encouraged to formulate their own essay topics and negotiate these with the instructor. The remaining 15% is awarded for class participation and attendance (which is mandatory). (The only acceptable excuses for missed deadlines will be for documented medical reasons or family bereavement/illness; late papers will otherwise be docked 0.3% per day.) All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).
SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND COURSE READINGS

Week One (5th Jan.): Orientation

Part I: What is Utopia?

Week Two (12th Jan.)


Part II - Major Utopian Thinkers

Week Three (19th Jan.): Marx & Engels, Utopian Socialism, Mannheim


Week Four (26th Jan.): Ernst Bloch


Week Five (2nd Feb.): The Frankfurt School


Week Six (19th Feb.): Paul Ricoeur & Fredric Jameson


Part III: Utopia and its ‘isms’

Week Seven (16th Feb.): Anarchism, Feminism, Ecologism


Week Eight (23rd Feb.): Fall Study Break (no classes)

Week Nine (2nd March): Poststructuralism and Postmodernism


Part IV: Debates and Issues

Week Ten (9th March): Liberal Utopias, Islamutopia, Anti-Utopianism, and Anti-Anti-Utopianism


Week Eleven (16th March): Revolutionary Dreams: Utopia in Power


Part V: Substantive Issues

Week Twelve (23rd March): Utopia and Mass Culture


Week Thirteen (30th March): Utopia, Space, Technology


Week Fourteen (5th April): Utopia's Futures?


Missed Exams and Late Assignments

You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University’s new “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be accessed at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf
Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office. In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different forms of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. In using another writer's words, you MUST both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer. In acknowledging a source from which a quote has been taken, you are to use the Style Guide recommended by your professor.

   Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B: In adopting other writers’ ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

   You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers’ trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in “A” above. Since the words are your own they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own: where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in “A” above.

   Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

   In short, use of acknowledgement and, when necessary, quotation marks if necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student’s receiving an “F” in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.