

HIST 4994W-002
Spring 2017
Tu 2-4:30, OAK269

Prof. Peter Zarrow
Wood Hall 327
office hours: Th 11-12:30 & by appt.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 17: introduction to course

Jan. 24: -More, *Utopia*, pp. 1-41 (to “Of the Travelling of the Utopians”)
-David Halpin, “Utopianism and Education”
-Krishan Kumar, “Elements of Utopia” [articles will be available on HuskyCT]
*“Reaction paper 1” due: based on your reading of KUMAR

Jan. 31: -More, pp. 41-83 (to the end of the book)
- J.C. Davis, “Thomas More’s *Utopia*”
- Krishan Kumar, “The Ends of Utopia”
*“Reaction paper 2” due: based on your reading of MORE

Feb. 7: Library tour

Feb. 14: -Le Guin, pp. 1-191
*“Reaction paper 3” due: based on your reading of LE GUIN

Feb. 21: Le Guin, pp. 192-387
*“Paper proposal” due

Feb. 28: -Karl Mannheim, “The Utopian Mentality”
-Jacqueline Dutton, “‘Non-Western’ Utopian Traditions”
*“Annotated bibliography” due

Mar. 7: -Paul Ricouer, 16-18: “Mannheim; Saint-Simon; Fourier”
-Lyman Tower Sargent, “Ideology and Utopia”
-Darren Langdrige, “Ideology and Utopia”

{ *March 12-19: spring break* }

Mar. 21: -Fatima Veira, “The Concept of Utopia”
-Lyman Tower Sargent, “The Three Faces of Utopianism Revisited”
*“Revised paper proposal” due

Mar. 28: *no class*: work on your paper drafts

Apr. 4: -student reports & readings
*“Complete Paper Draft” due

Apr. 11: -student reports & readings

April 18: -student reports & readings

April 25: -student reports
*“Final paper” is due

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Utopianism in the Modern World

Utopian thought speculates how we might build a perfect world. Utopianism appears in almost every time and place in fictional works and political writings. In the modern context, utopianism offers secular visions of egalitarian societies. This course will discuss utopianism as a social phenomenon and as a means of criticizing existing society, and will allow students to explore particular cases of utopianism (countries, communities, texts).

“Utopianism” is a writing-intensive seminar that focuses on the analysis of utopian texts from the modern era (1500-), including fiction, political programs, social plans, and descriptions of utopian communities. The pacing of the course will be fast, with heavy reading, so be prepared.

This seminar revolves around three goals:

1. to understand the motives and effects of utopianism in different times and places; to be able to contextualize specific utopian texts in terms of both utopian traditions and the social and political background of the text—this goal relies on skills of historical analysis;
2. to learn different ways of reading utopian texts; to appreciate ways in which every utopian vision is also a dystopian vision for particular audiences—this goal also relies on skills of literary scholarship;
3. to improve research and writing skills: much of the semester will be devoted to preparation of a final paper in which you analyze a particular utopian text or body of texts, making use of both primary sources (the utopian text/s) and secondary sources (other analyses by historians and scholars of utopianism).

The course requirements consist of class participation and written work.

Class participation is based on the assigned readings and discussion of your additional (paper) research. All points of view are allowable but should always be expressed in a mutually respectful way. (And please turn off cell phones and use laptops only for notes.) Class participation—discussion of the readings, of your own work, and of other students’ work—counts for 40% of your final grade.

Written work is central to this course and is, in my view, an important way of teaching yourself to think clearly. Collectively, written work counts for 60% of your final grade.

- “Reaction papers” ~3 pages [1st paper not graded; next 2 are each 5% of final grade]
- “Paper proposal: topic, scope, and tentative thesis” ~2-3 pages (to be revised) [5%]
- “Annotated bibliography” (of secondary sources) ~4-5 pages [5%]
- “Revised paper proposal; discussion of secondary sources” ~6-8 pages [5%]
- “Complete paper draft” ~15-20 pages; to be rewritten [5%]
- “Final paper” ~15-20 pages [30%]

According to university-wide policies for W courses, you cannot pass this course unless you receive a passing grade for its writing components.

Late work will be penalized 5 points for each day late. Assignments should be emailed to me in Word attachment *before* class AND a *hardcopy brought to class*.

In your written work, citations should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which you can find in the Babbidge Reference Room (Z253.U69 2010). This applies to the last three writing assignments (“Revised paper proposal,” “Draft,” and “Final paper”).

Further Notes:

1. You are welcome to work with the University Writing Center, which can schedule individual tutorials for you. See <http://writingcenter.uconn.edu/>.
2. Plagiarism is not tolerated. See http://irc.uconn.edu/PlagiarismModule/intro_m.htm. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic F and may be reported to the university.
3. Provisions will be made for students with disabilities. See http://www.csd.uconn.edu/accommodation_services.html.

READINGS

Two books are required for this course and can be obtained at the UConn Co-op:

- Thomas More, *Utopia*
- Ursula Le Guin, *The Dispossessed*

Other readings will be made available on HuskyCT. By week 10 of the semester, students will be expected to share readings based on their individual projects that the class will discuss.