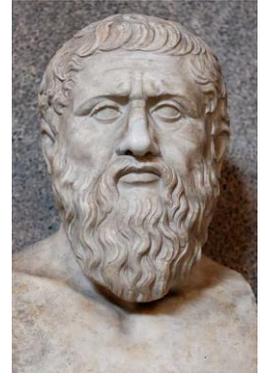


WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

CLC 2102B – *Utopias & Visions of the Future*

Winter (2nd semester) 2017-18



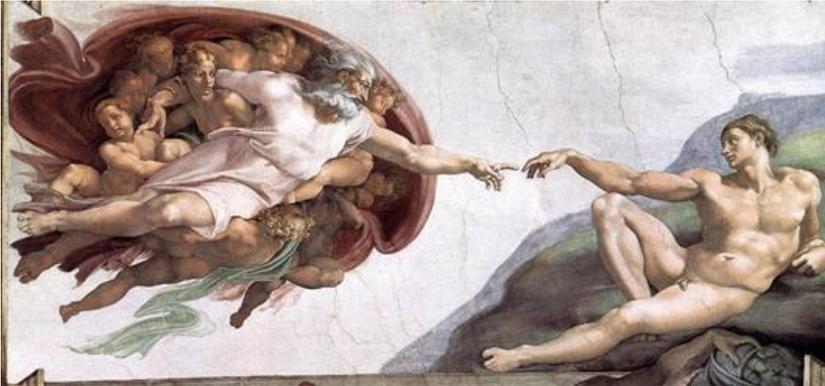
Instructor: Vlad Tumanov (vtumanov@uwo.ca)

Office hours: by appointment

Location / Time: STVH-3101; Mon. 1:30-3:30 & Wed. 1:30-2:30

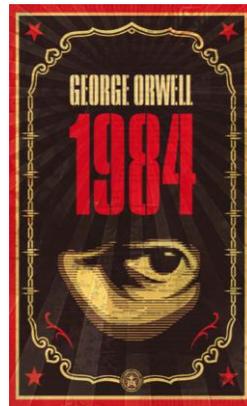
Course Content

On the basis of books and stories from antiquity to more recent times, this course will take you across the map of Europe in search of various attempts to imagine ideal societies and perfect places. Exploring the political, social and cultural basis of the utopian impulse, we will consider how utopia morphs into its polar opposite: the nightmare of dystopia. **Taught in English.**



Course Requirements

Participation	5%
Oral presentation	15%
Midterm (in class)	25%
Written assign. (1200 words)	25%
Final Exam (2 hrs.)	30%



Texts in Sequence (available online or via Amazon

Kindle)

1. Genesis 1-11 (from [The Old Testament](#))
2. Revelation (from [The New Testament](#))
3. Plato [The Republic](#)
4. More, T. [Utopia](#)
5. Orwell, G. [Nineteen Eighty-Four](#)

Film in class: *Brazil*

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available [here](#). It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.

Course Schedule



Introduction	Jan. 8
Genesis	First half of January
Plato: <i>The Republic</i>	Second half of January to early February
Revelation	First half of February (Feb. 19-23: Reading Week)
Midterm	March 7
T. More: <i>Utopia</i>	First half of March
G. Orwell: <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	Second half of March to early April
Presentation 1: Aristotle - Politics Bk. 2	Feb. 7
Presentation 2: T. Campanella - City of the Sun	Feb 14
Presentation 3: S. Butler - Erewhon	March 14
Presentation 4: Ye. Zamiatin - We	March 28
Film: <i>Brazil</i>	April 9
Presentation 5: T. Gilliam - <i>Brazil</i>¹ (no summary)	April 11

Presentation Format:

- 30 min. (in a group [grade shared])
- 1 person can speak for all or presenters can take turns. Speak clearly, project. Do research in library. PPT.
- 1 coherent presentation: not several independent mini-presentations
- Content:** historical background; brief summary; themes; structure; analysis; connection to class lectures
- see sample presentation on OWL under Resources

The course aims to achieve the following:

- introduce students to the differences between the proto-utopia & the modern utopia introduced by T. More
- present utopian characters, themes, motifs and structures
- draw connections between visions of the ideal place and situate the topic in a historical context
- explore ways in which visions of the ideal place in different times and place reflect the political and ideological aspirations of their authors and related societies
- introduce students to the differences between utopia and dystopia
- enrich the cultural experience of students by supplementing the literary works with **films**

It is expected that, upon the successful completion of the course, students will have acquired:

- familiarity with the major visions of the ideal place starting with the ancient idyll
- the understanding of the way in which utopian ideas have influenced real social projects
- the use of the literary utopia and dystopia as a means of social criticism
- insight into the way in which utopia & dystopia are simultaneously opposites & yet presuppose each other

¹ See OWL>Resources> Brazil Articles

•an improved ability to express oneself on these and other related topics orally (through in-class presentations) and in writing (through a short writing assignment).