

FSEM100-18 Utopias in Fiction, Real Life, and Virtual Reality
 TR 11:30 am-12:45 pm Elizabeth 316

Final Schedule

Topic and reading list

11/03	Utopias in Film and Literature in the 20th Century <i>Lang, Metropolis (film)</i> <i>Vonnegut, Player Piano</i>	
11/10	<i>Vonnegut, Player Piano</i> <i>Gilman, Herland (c. 319-328), Zamiatin We (c. 329-343),</i>	
11/17	Proposal preparation (we will not meet 11/17) Utopias in Film and Literature in the 20th Century <i>Skinner, Walden Two (c. 372-389), Le Guin "The Day Before the Revolution" (c. 407-420).</i>	Paper 2 proposal due 11/19
11/24	Communes and intentional communities (online) Thanksgiving break 11/26	No class 11/26
12/1	Final reflections on Utopia: <i>Visions of Utopia</i> essays 1 & 3.	
12/3	Second paper presentations	Paper 2 due 12/03

Final exam: Wednesday, December 9, 2-4 pm in Elizabeth 316

Paper Assignments

Note: these are short, directed papers. Do not waste space on long introductions, reviews of material we have covered in class, long conclusions, or general passages that are not making specific points. Introduce your thesis in a sentence or two, make a series of well outlined and argued points supported by evidence from your research, and wrap up you paper with a conclusion of a paragraph or two.

All papers should be turned in on paper at the beginning of the class period in which they are due.

Paper 2 Utopias Essay

8-9 pages, double spaced, plus bibliography. Use a 12 point font and 1 inch margins. Cite all references using the parenthetical format.

This paper will be more open-ended that the first. Since you wrote a paper using historical research for the first assignment, the second paper should not have historical research as its primary method (although it can have some historical research). Rather you should combine scholarly research with an analytical essay comparing at least two utopias (it's acceptable to have

one utopia as a major focus, with comparisons to at least one other). You must conduct new research and use scholarly sources beyond what has been assigned in class. Beyond that, it is up to you to define the subject area.

Some suggested topic areas include:

SecondLife and Burning Man as contemporary utopias of convenience.

Utopias and science incorporating The Koreshan Unity.

Utopias and sex/family incorporating Oneida.

EPCOT as originally envisioned.

Celebration

Utopias in literature: you could read the full versions of *Herland*, *We*, *Walden Two*, or *The Dispossessed* and use one of those novels as a base. Other novels are at my discretion (i.e. check with me before preparing a proposal).

Utopias in film: you need films with strong scholarly discussion (not just reviews). You could select: *Gattaca* (1997), *Blade Runner* (1982), *Clockwork Orange* (1971), *THX 1138* (1971), *Fahrenheit 451* (1966), or *Lost Horizon* (1937). Other films are at my discretion (i.e. check with me before preparing a proposal).

The commune/intentional community movement in the US.

Cassadaga

College as an utopia

Another topic area of your choosing and my approval.

As before, identify and make use of key standard discussion questions, develop and present a thesis, and present well supported points in a logical manner that back your thesis.

You will present your findings in class on 12/03. As part of the research process for the first paper you will turn in a proposal for paper 2 on 11/19. The proposal will consist of 1-2 pages outlining the topic, the specific questions you will address in your paper, and your primary thesis. It will also include 1-2 pages of annotated bibliography indicating the primary sources your plan to use and why they are the most important sources for your paper (note that these are more likely to be online sources than in the first paper).