

The next two weeks will be somewhat *ad hoc* in terms of what we cover on which day. This is the result of the problems in getting a lab day for SecondLife. We will still cover the material from the syllabus, but it somewhat different order, to be determined on a class by class basis.

You should read the material on Celebration, Florida on the course web site following today's course. You should start reading *Player Piano* (a brief guide to creating your notes is included below). Do not be concerned about the paper 2 proposal and paper deadlines at this point, I may have to delay those a bit.

My expectation is that we will cover EPCOT on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (you will read about Celebration on your own), have the SecondLife lab on the 27<sup>th</sup>, watch Metropolis on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and start *Player Piano* on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. However this may change if we don't get SecondLife sorted out. There will also be some slight shuffling of the schedule through the end of the term.

Aside from SecondLife, we are moving into a segment on Utopias and Dystopias in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature. While our standard discussion questions still apply there are several important differences.

1. We will be examining utopias (and dystopias) of whole societies instead of small enclave. So there will be much more emphasis on far reaching concern with social and economic classes and government than with our small communities.
2. The period we will be studying is around the turn of the century (1900) until the 1960s. You will see a lot of dissatisfaction with excesses of industrialization.
3. There will also be a lot of concern over rise of authoritarian states that happened in the 20s and 30s. States found they could exercise centralized control using new technology of mass media and industrialization, and this happened in communist and fascist governments.
4. Perhaps one explanation for the tone of much of this literature is disappointment over failure of utopian communities to change the world in the 1800s.
5. All of the above elements combine to create flood of dystopias in literature, including *Metropolis*, *Player Piano* and others.
6. With long form literature we will have the same basic questions but the medium approaches them in different ways. Instead of history we will look at plot and instead of principles/laws etc we will see how these ideas are expressed in characters.

Questions to guide your notes on the Disney EPCOT film.

What was the purpose for which this film was made?

What point are they trying to make about Disneyland (CA)?

How do they support the claim that Disneyland is a “proving ground” of urban design?

Why is the claim about the reasons for the location of Disney World?

What is claimed to be the unique features of the plan for EPCOT (look at the maps closely)?

What is Walt Disney’s answer to the “need” of society?

What will be done about existing cities?

What are the regions and layers intended for EPCOT?

How will people get around?

What will people do for work?

What will their homes and schools be like?

What kind of people do you think would have been attracted to this utopia? What kind of people would you have expected not to find there?

Template for you notes on *Metropolis*

**Major Themes.** How are they expressed?

What message about government is in this film. Is it pro capitalism, pro communism, or pro facism or none?

What about classes and class relationships?

Religion?

Technology (good or bad?)

**Characters.** What does each represent?

Maria

Johhan 'Joh' Frederesen

Freder Frederesen

Rotwang

The Robot

Grot

The workers

Hel

Template for you notes on *Player Piano*

We will focus equally on plot and character. I recommend you do a brief chapter summary, focusing on the following. In addition to discussing what happens we will want to talk about why each location and “scene” are in the novel – these are not random. Also what does each character represent?

**Major Characters:**

Paul Proteus

Anita Proteus

Kroner

Ed Finnerty

Rev. James Lasher

The Shah of Bratpuhr (and his visit)

Dr. Shepherd

Dr. Halyard

**Locations:**

Ilium Works

The Farmhouse

In Town - Homestead

the Meadows

Korner’s home

**Other Items to Track:**

Ghost Shirt Society

Economic Classes

College life

Gender issues

The reasons for defeat of the revolution

Of course we will talk about Vonnegut’s overall message about utopia/dystopia as we finish.

