

## Dystopian Literature

Fall 2021

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Extension: 223

### ***Course Description and Objectives***

Dystopian literature has a strong pull on the modern imagination, as evidenced by its ubiquity, ranging from the woefully weak (*The Hunger Games*) to the strikingly strong (*Lord of the Flies*). In this course students will learn the common settings and themes in dystopian literature, with a special focus on the themes of death and rebirth, destruction and resurrection. Students will practice both creative and critical writing.

### ***Topics Covered***

- The relationships between dystopian literature and the 20th century
- The nature of dystopias, real and imagined
- Ethical dilemmas in extreme circumstances

### ***Textbooks***

- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury
- *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley
- *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy
- *Canticle for Leibowitz*, Walter M. Miller, Jr.
- *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
- *The Book of Eli* (film)
- Selections from *The Time Machine*, *1984*, the *Blade Runner* films, et. al.

### ***Course Requirements***

- Reading of class material and one assigned non-curricular work.
- Completion of all readings and assignments by the given due dates.
- Active class participation.

- Evidence of care in preparation for written and performance assignments
- Above all, written assignments turned in early and often.

### ***Assignments***

- Assignments vary from quarter to quarter, but will include miniquizzes, character voices, and critical essays. One essay will be on a book of the student's choice not found in the Heights curriculum. Summaries of several options will be provided in class.
- The final assignment for the second quarter will be a 10-page essay including a full bibliography of cited works. Please see FAQ handout for detailed descriptions of these kinds of assignments.

### ***Successful Students***

- Successful students will be on time, with books and notes in hand, and be prepared to engage the material. They will display attentiveness to detail and foster habits of creative initiative and a collaborative spirit. Above all, they will turn in writing assignments early and often.

### ***Exam***

- The exam for this class will cover all quarter material. Detailed explanation will be given in review classes before the exam.