

Dystopian Literature

Fall 2023

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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.

Topics Covered

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

Textbooks

- *The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- A Selection of Short Stories

Course Requirements

- Reading of class material.
- Completion of all readings and assignments by the given due dates.
- Active class participation.
- Evidence of care in preparation for written assignments

Assignments

- Assignments vary from quarter to quarter, but will include miniquizzes, in class graded Seminars, and written work.

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.

Exam

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