

ENGL 437 Literature and Technology: Utopia, Dystopia, and Science Fiction

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

30 Points



Image from Phoenix vol. 2, by Tezuka Osamu (VIZ Media LLC, 2004)

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-Trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Study week:	21 to 25 October 2013
Examination/Assessment period:	25 October to 16 November 2013

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

This course will be taught in the form of a seminar based around discussion of primary and secondary texts. Students are expected to have read all of the relevant material before coming to class in order to participate fully in the discussion.

Wed 10.00am – 12.50pm Von Zedlitz 808

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Dougal McNeill	Dougal.McNeill@vuw.ac.nz	463 6803	vZ905	Tues 11.00am – 12.00 noon

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be conveyed via Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

This course explores the relations between literature and technology, tracing the history of the Utopia and Science Fiction. Attention is given to the role of the body as technology in literature. Literature as technology and Science Fiction's role as genre are foregrounded. Theoretical traditions are explored alongside canonical Utopian texts.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Discuss (both orally and in writing) the major primary and secondary texts in the field of Utopia, Dystopia and Science Fiction.
- 2) Produce independent research on Utopias and Science Fiction, using primary and secondary texts.
- 3) Analyse literature as a technology through the representation of technology in literature.
- 4) Understand key concepts in advanced critical theory and Science Fiction studies.
- 5) Reflect upon and advance their capabilities in the medium of writing.

TEACHING FORMAT

The course will be taught through seminars. Students will be responsible for introducing and leading discussion seminars, and it is expected that you attend and fully participate in each seminar.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Sit the examination

WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on average, about 20 hours per week on work for this course, apart from the seminars. Note that this is a rough guide only, which will vary from student to student and from week to week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Seminar paper	10%	1	TBC
2	Two reading reports (600 words each)	20%	1, 4	2/8, 13/9
3	Annotated Bibliography (1500 words)	10%	1, 4, 5	27/09
4	Essay Proposal (400 words)	5%	1, 3, 4	20/09
5	Major Research Essay (3000 words)	25%	1, 2, 3, 5	11/10
6	Exam (2 hours)	30%	1, 3, 4, 5	TBA

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: Von Zedlitz level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Assignments will be returned during lectures. At the end of trimester, uncollected assignments can be collected from the administration office: Von Zedlitz level 8.

PENALTIES

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate.

SET TEXTS

Thomas More, *Utopia* in Susan Bruce (ed) *Three Early Modern Utopias*

William Morris, *News from Nowhere*

Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward*

Ursula Le Guin, *Left Hand of Darkness*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*

Joanna Russ, *Female Man*

Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*

Kawamata Chiaki, *Death Sentences*

Philip K Dick, *Ubik*

Philip K Dick, *The Man in the High Castle*

Tezuka Osamu, *Phoenix vol. 2*

Zamyatin, *We*

You can order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

Further recommended readings and reading lists will be distributed via Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

You may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and email address for this course:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract

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- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	17 Jul	<i>Utopia</i> and the Utopian Tradition READINGS: (1) Thomas More, <i>Utopia</i> ; (2) Francis Bacon, <i>New Atlantis</i> ; (3) Fredric Jameson, "Morus: the Generic Window"; (4) Andrew Milner, "Locating Science Fiction"
Week 2	24 Jul	Cognitive Estrangement: Defining SF READINGS: (1) Darko Suvin, "Estrangement and Cognition"; (2) Darko Suvin, "SF and the Genealogical Jungle"; (3) Fredric Jameson, "Progress vs. Utopia"
Week 3	31 Jul	Utopianisms from Above and Below READINGS: (1) Edward Bellamy, <i>Looking Backward</i> ; (2) William Morris <i>News from Nowhere</i> ; (3) Matthew Beaumont "State Socialism and Utopia"; (4) William Morris, "Looking Backward" READING REPORT ONE DUE FRIDAY 2nd AUGUST 5pm
Week 4	7 Aug	Utopian Generation READINGS: (1) Charlotte Perkins Gilman, <i>Herland</i> ; (2) Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Do We Want a Political Party for Women?"
Week 5	14 Aug	Dystopia and Apocalypse READINGS: (1) Yevgeny Zamyatin, <i>We</i> ; (2) Jacques Derrida, "Not Apocalypse, Not Now"
Week 6	21 Aug	The Body as Technology (I) READINGS: (1) Joanna Russ <i>The Female Man</i> ; (2) Donna J. Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto"
Mid Trimester Break:	Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013	
Week 7	11 Sep	The Body as Technology (II) READINGS: (1) Marge Piercy, <i>Woman on the Edge of Time</i> ; (2) Judith Butler, "The End of Sexual Difference?" READING REPORT TWO DUE FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 5pm

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Week 8	18 Sep	The Body as Technology (III) READINGS: (1) Ursula Le Guin, <i>Left Hand of Darkness</i> ; (2) Le Guin, "Introduction to <i>Left Hand of Darkness</i> "; (3) Le Guin, "Is Gender Necessary?" ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 5pm
Week 9	25 Sep	Text, Image, and Technology READINGS: (1) Tezuka Osamu, <i>Phoenix</i> vol. 2; (2) Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 5pm
Week 10	2 Oct	SF, Alternate History, Orientalism READINGS: (1) Philip K. Dick, <i>The Man in the High Castle</i> ; (2) Elisabeth Anne Leonard, "Race and ethnicity in science fiction"
Week 11	9 Oct	Utopias and Dystopias of Drugs READINGS: (1) Philip K. Dick, <i>Ubik</i> ; (2) Carl Freedman, "The Critical Dynamic: Science Fiction and Style" MAJOR RESEARCH ESSAY DUE FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER 5pm
Week 12	16 Oct	SF and Simulacra READINGS: (1) Kawamata Chiaki, <i>Death Sentences</i> ; (2) Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Science Fiction"; (3) N Katherine Hayles, "Response to Baudrillard"; (4) Philip K. Dick, "Drugs, Hallucination and the Quest for Reality"
Study Week:		Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2013
Examination Period:		Friday 25 October to Saturday 16 November 2013