Utopia/Dystopia Dwight Kiel

POT 4331

Spring 2012

SYLLABUS

This course explores both classic and contemporary utopian and dystopian literature from the perspective of political thought. The course is constructed around questions one would ask about a utopia/dystopia (the questions are developed by the students). Although there are web assignments for this course, the major emphases are on reading great books and participating in group discussions.

Required Texts

•Plato The Republic (Penguin)

•More Utopia (Dover)

•Swift Gulliver's Travels (Norton)

•Gilman Herland (Pantheon)

•Huxley Brave New World (Harper)

•Burgess The Wanting Seed (Norton)

You may use other editions (including electronic), but these are the ones I consider the best translated and edited (and/or the ones that are the least expensive)

Requirements

Assignment	Percentage
Discussion Group Answer Assignments (DGAAs)	20% of final grade
Short Projects	20% of final grade
First Essay	25% of final grade

Final Essay	35% of final grade

Grading

Assignment	Grading
DGAAs	A good post gets an “A” or a grade of “1” (bad post or no post gets an “F” or a grade of “0” in the gradebook)
Short Projects	Same as DGAAs
First Essay	Scale of 50-100 (unless you don't hand one in, then it is 0)
Final Essay	Same as First Essay

I will deploy a +/- grading system (80-82=B-) (83-86=B) (87-89=B+)