

**English Summer Programme
2007-8**

ENGL 349

Utopias, Imagined Worlds and Satiric Fantasies

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 1.10-3.00pm
Hugh McKenzie Building, Lecture Room HM003**

Convenor: Emeritus Professor Roger Robinson
VZ 913; ph 4636849; Roger.Robinson@vuw.ac.nz
Lecturers: Roger Robinson, Sonia Johnson, Patricia McLean, Geoff Miles
Tutor: Sonia Johnson (Sonia.Johnson@vuw.ac.nz)

Prerequisites: 44 points from ENGL 201-299. (Other students with special interest and other appropriate qualifications should consult Roger Robinson.)

Credit: 24 points at 300-level, which may be credited towards the 300-level requirements of the BA and to the English Literature major.

Aims and Objectives: to provide literary, historical and culturally contextual knowledge for the rewarding reading of the genre of "imaginary world" prose fiction, particularly utopias, futuristic fictions, and satiric fantasies; and to develop high-level skills in critical study and discussion of literary prose texts from a variety of periods.

The course is designed to be enjoyable, challenging and rewarding. Its academic level is that internationally recognised for a majoring degree course in English literature. In content, and the skills it develops, it complements other 300-level ENGL papers, and thus provides an appropriate base for a variety of professional employment or for Honours and postgraduate study in English.

Students gaining credit in ENGL 349 will:

- have fully read and carefully studied all the prescribed texts;
- have acquired 300-level skills in literary-critical discussion, both oral and written;
- have acquired an advanced level of knowledge in the history of the genre of imaginary world fiction and satiric fantasy in English, with some ability to relate each text to its literary, cultural, philosophical, and/or political contexts.

Texts:

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*; H.G. Wells, *The Food of the Gods*; Samuel Butler, *Erewhon*; Julius Vogel, *Anno Domini 2000*; or, *Woman's Destiny* (all these four are required study);
H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*; Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*; George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*; Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*; Doris Lessing, *Mara and Dann*; Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake*, Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*.
Choose four of the last group, i.e. eight texts in all. For students with special interests, substitution of one text from outside the prescribed list may be permitted if discussed beforehand.

Attendance:

ENGL 349 is designed as a fully participatory course in the "collegial" tradition of this university, not for distance-learning, on-line study or as a mere qualification for attainment. **Lectures** represent the discipline of English studies in process, providing not only information on the texts in the particular context of this course (300-level, in

Wellington, in 2007-8), but demonstrate the various elements and skills of literary discussion, such as textual explication and analysis, historical or biographical contextualisation, etc. **Tutorials** offer a less formal opportunity for personal participation in the collegial process of learning that is essential to university study. They emphasise students' responsibility and active role. The skills they train in oral communication and group discussion are highly valued by employers, and thus by society as a whole.

Assessment: See the Assignments Handouts for details, and the **Programme** below for due dates. Three written assignments are required, each worth 33.3%, with a total of 6000 words. This is higher than in-term work in other 300-level ENGL papers because there is no final examination. Written assignments must be delivered in hard copy (not email, unless by special permission), on time, and to the required length. Late work without an extension may be penalised by one grade every two days. Because results are required for First Trimester enrolments, extensions beyond Feb 13th for the third assignment can be given only in very exceptional circumstances. Plan ahead in case of emergency.

Workload: The guideline for a 24-point 300-level paper is at least 16 hours' reading and study a week for 12 weeks. Since ENGL 349 is accelerated to 6 weeks, workloads must be adjusted accordingly, especially by **doing much of your reading in non-teaching weeks. To work only in the six teaching weeks will not be enough.**

Mandatory requirements:

- Fully read and carefully study eight required texts (with specific approval, students may sometimes substitute or add other imagined world texts in which they have special interest);
- Attend at least 70% of **lectures and tutorials**;
- Complete three written assignments (6000 words total) at 300-level standard.
- Meet deadlines.
- Note: Failure to fulfil these requirements will result in a D or E grade; the University no longer uses "Q."

Academic concerns and problems: Consult (1) the tutor, (2) the convenor, or (3) English Programme Director (Charles Ferrall).

Plagiarism: Students are reminded of the School's and the University's policy on plagiarism. Assignments in English are designed to develop and assess your own ability to think about literary text. *Material downloaded from the Internet is not permitted within assignments unless fully acknowledged in the same way as published material.* Plagiarism, from whatever source (including the Internet), may lead to your failing the paper, or receiving a lower grade if the submission of substitute work is approved.

Students with disabilities: Victoria makes every effort to enable students with disabilities to study without disadvantage, including the policy that reasonable accommodation will be made with respect to assessment procedures. Disability Support Services, Ground Floor Robert Stout Building; ph 463 6070; email disabilities@vuw.ac.nz

University Requirements: It is students' responsibility to be familiar with University requirements regarding course of study regulations, assessment, academic grievance procedures, etc. These are contained in the statutes in the *Calendar* and on the University website. The Statute on Conduct ensures that members of the University community are able to work, learn and study in an atmosphere of safety and respect.

Additional information: SEFTMS/English notice board, Hugh McKenzie foyer, alongside HM 206.

Student input: Feedback is welcomed. Suggestions from previous years' students have been incorporated in this year's course.

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Texts may sometimes start a little earlier or later than shown. Lectures are by Roger Robinson unless indicated.

- Tue 4 Dec Introduction / *Gulliver's Travels*
Wed 5 *Gulliver's Travels*
Thu 6 *Gulliver's Travels; The Food of the Gods*
Tue 11 "Classical Utopias" (Geoff Miles); *The Food of the Gods*
Wed 12 "New World & New Zealand Utopian Tradition"/ *Erewhon*
Thu 13 *Erewhon*
Tue 18 *Erewhon*
Wed 19 "Imagining the Secular Apocalypse" (Sonia Johnson); *Anno Domini 2000*
Thu 20 *Anno Domini 2000*
Fri 21 5pm Assignment 1 due (*Gulliver's Travels, Food of the Gods, Erewhon*)
- Tue 22 Jan *The Time Machine*
Wed 23 "Reading Imagined Worlds" (Sonia Johnson); *The Time Machine/ Brave New World*
Thu 24 *Brave New World*
Tue 29 *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (Sonia Johnson)
Wed 30 *A Clockwork Orange* (Patricia McLean)
Thu 31 *A Clockwork Orange, Mara & Dann*
Fri Feb 1, 5pm Assignment 2 due (*Erewhon, Anno Domini 2000, The Time Machine, Brave New World*)
Tue 5 Feb *Oryx & Crake/The Handmaid's Tale* (Patricia McLean)
[Wed 6 Feb Waitangi Day]
Thu 7 *Oryx & Crake/ The Handmaid's Tale* (Patricia McLean)
Course conclusion.
Wed 13 5pm Assignment 3 due (*Brave New World, Nineteen Eighty-Four, A Clockwork Orange, Mara & Dann, Oryx & Crake, The Handmaid's Tale*) **No extensions possible**

