

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

Trimester 2 2014

14 July to 16 November 2014

30 Points



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

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	14 July to 17 October 2014
Mid-Trimester break:	25 August to 7 September 2014
Study week:	20 to 24 October 2014
Examination/Assessment period:	24 October to 15 November 2014

Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

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.

Seminars

Wednesday, 10.00-12.50 von Zedlitz vZ802

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
Dougal McNeill	Dougal.McNeill@vuw.ac.nz	463-6803	vZ905
Office Hours:	Tuesday 11am – 12noon		

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 will explore issues between literature and technology, tracing the history of 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 the major primary and secondary texts in the field of Utopia, Dystopia and Science Fiction.
- 2 Produce independent research on Utopia and SF, 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 SF 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	Essay Proposal (400 words)	5%	1, 3, 4	20/9
4	Annotated Bibliography (1500 words)	10%	1,4,5	27/09
5	Major Research Essay (3000 words)	25%	1, 2, 3, 5	11/10
6	Exam 2 hours (24 October to 15 November 2014)	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.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. 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. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14**

November 2014.

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.

SET TEXTS

Thomas More, *Utopia* (in the OUP edition *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*;

Octavia Butler, *Kindred*;

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile

- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	16 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	23 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	30 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	6 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	13 Aug	Dystopia and Apocalypse READINGS: (1) Yevgeny Zamyatin, <i>We</i> ; (2) Jacques Derrida, "Not Apocalypse, Not Now"
Week 6	20 Aug	SF and History Octavia Butler, <i>Kindred</i> 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 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014	
Week 7	10 Sep	The Body as Technology (I) 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?" READING REPORT TWO DUE FRIDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 5pm
Week 8	17 Sep	The Body as Technology (I) READINGS: (1) Joanna Russ <i>The Female Man</i> ; (2) Donna J. Haraway, "A Cyborg

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Manifesto”

ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 5pm

Week 9 24 Sep Text, Image, and Technology

READINGS: (1) Tezuka Osamu, *Phoenix* vol. 2; (2) Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 5pm

Week 10 1 Oct SF, Alternate History, Orientalism

READINGS: (1) Philip K. Dick, *The Man in the High Castle*; (2) Elisabeth Anne Leonard, “Race and ethnicity in science fiction”

Week 11 8 Oct Utopias and Dystopias of Drugs

READINGS: (1) Philip K. Dick, *Ubik*; (2) Carl Freedman, “The Critical Dynamic: Science Fiction and Style”

MAJOR RESEARCH ESSAY DUE FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER 5pm

Week 12 15 Oct SF and Simulacra

READINGS: (1) Kawamata Chiaki, *Death Sentences*; (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 20 to Friday 24 October 2014

Examination Period: Friday 24 October to Saturday 15 November July 2014