

Note: This is a new course, taught for the very first time this quarter, that explores how dystopias are constructed in twentieth-century and contemporary fiction. There are a number of different ways dystopian elements of a fictional society can be expressed, and we will be looking at a broad sample of narratives that explore social upheaval caused by, among other things, disease, political repression, gender discrimination, fear of knowledge, zombies, and old-fashioned bad luck. Some people think that the society we currently live in already bears some of the hallmarks of a dystopia, and we will discuss that as well. Feel free to email me with any questions and hope to see you there! This is a preliminary syllabus. There will be some small adjustments between now and the beginning of the quarter, but not an increase in the workload. The final syllabus will be posted on the course website on Canvas the week before classes begin.

Hum/En 037: Welcome to Dystopia!

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October 1	Introduction
October 3	Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery"
October 8	Phillip K. Dick, "Minority Report"
October 10	Ursula K. Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"
October 15	Ray Bradbury, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
October 17	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
October 22	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
October 24	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>
October 29	Focus on first chapters: <i>Battle Royale</i>
October 31	Focus on first chapters: <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
November 5	Focus on first chapters: <i>Swan Song</i> (alternatives: <i>World War Z</i> , <i>Zombie Survival Guide</i>)
November 7	No class
November 12	Emily St. John Mandel, <i>Station 11</i>
November 14	<i>Station 11</i>
November 19	<i>Station 11</i>
November 21	<i>Station 11</i>
November 26	Brian K. Vaughan and Pia Guerra, <i>Y: The Last Man</i>
November 28	No class
December 3	<i>Y: The Last Man</i>
December 5	Course Review

Course requirements: attendance (required to pass the course), comments on the readings (we use a collaborative pdf annotation app), two short homework essays (around 1,000 words each), and a final paper (around 2,000 words).