

Department of English & Writing Studies
Speculative Fiction: Utopias and Dystopias
English 2073G (001)
Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi
UC 4431

Methods of Evaluation

Essay 1 (750 words, due February 15)	20%
Essay 2 (1750 words, due March 29)	40%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students with Disabilities: Please contact the Office of Disability Services at (781) 552-1100 for more information.

3. Requests for extensions will be handled according to the practices recommended by the university; these may evolve based on the COVID-19 pandemic, and if any changes do occur, I will post an announcement on the OWL. Currently, students can obtain academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty (see page 7 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only after you have contacted academic counselling.
4. The Participation Grade will reflect your presence in class and your lively participation in discussions.
5. All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accear

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

Jan. 9: Introduction to the Course

Jan. 11: Veronica Roth, *Divergent* (Chapters 1-5)

Conversations with a Better World

Jan. 16: E. Nesbit, "The Sorry-Present and the Expelled Little Boy" (Ch. 12 of *The Story of The Amulet*) (link on OWL)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland* (Ch. 1-6) (link on OWL)

Jan. 18: *Herland* (Ch. 7-12)

False and Real Utopias

Jan. 23: Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (up to p. 105)

Jan. 25: *Brave New World* (up to p. 182)

Jan. 30: *Brave New World*

Feb. 1: Lois Lowry, *The Giver* (Chapters 1-9)

Feb. 6: *The Giver*

Feb. 8: Ursula K. Leguin, "

- Feb. 15: *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (Part 3)
- Feb. 20-24: SPRING READING WEEK (no class)
- Feb. 27: Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (up to Part 8)
- Mar. 1: *The Handmaid's Tale* (Parts 9-end)
- Mar. 6: *The Handmaid's Tale*
Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*
- Mar. 8: *The Hunger Games*
- Mar. 13: *The Hunger Games*
Suzanne Collins, *Catching Fire* (Ch. 1-17)
- Mar. 15: *Catching Fire* (Ch. 18-end)
- Mar. 20-22: Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay*
Apocalypse
- Mar. 27-29: Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*
- Apr. 3-5: film and discussion: *Children of Men*
- Apr. 10: review

Grading Rubric

THESIS

- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT

- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION

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Sample MLA Format: