ENGL-232: DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

Effective Term
Fall 2025

CC Approval
10/20/2023

AS Approval
11/14/2023

BOT Approval
11/16/2023

COCI Approval
05/02/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status
Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
English (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code
ENGL - English
Course Number
232

Department
English (ENGL)

Division
Language and Developmental Studies (LADS)

Full Course Title
Dystopian Literature

Short Title
Dystopian Literature

CB03 TOP Code
1501.00 - English

CB08 Basic Skills Status
NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code
E - Non-Occupational

Rationale
Expanding ENGL Department Literature offerings to increase demand and support student success.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description
This course surveys the genre of dystopian literature: works set in a speculative bad-place (dys-topos). Study will include classic and contemporary works; major writers and themes of dystopian literature and an exploration of why dystopian literature has captured the contemporary cultural imagination.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit
No

Repeatability
Not Repeatable

Grading Options
Letter Grade Only

Allow Audit
Yes

Requisites

Prerequisite(s)
Completion of ENGL-C1000 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C.

Requisite Justification
Requisite Description
Course Not in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL
Course #
C1000

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:
A. Think, read, and write critically about a variety of ethical, civic, and cultural topics.
B. Write unified, coherent, well supported, and grammatically correct documents while also demonstrating adequate research skills, including locating, evaluating, integrating, and documenting sources using discipline appropriate styles, such as MLA.

Requisite Description
Course Not in a Sequence

Subject
ENGL
Course #
120B

Level of Scrutiny
Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:
A. Think, read, and write critically about a variety of ethical, civic, and cultural topics.
B. Write unified, coherent, well supported, and grammatically correct documents while also demonstrating adequate research skills, including locating, evaluating, integrating, and documenting sources using discipline appropriate styles, such as MLA.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?
No

Units
3

Lecture Hours
54

Outside of Class Hours
108

Total Contact Hours
54

Total Student Hours
162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?
Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent
Online with Proctored Exams	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Demonstrate through explication, interpretation, and/or analysis understanding of major works of dystopian literature.
2.	Demonstrate through explication, interpretation, and/or analysis understanding of historical and cultural influences on dystopian literature.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Define dystopian literature as a genre.
2.	Distinguish dystopian literature from, and connect it to, other genres of literature. These other genres include, but are not limited to, the following: utopian fiction, science fiction (hard and soft), speculative fiction, fantasy.
3.	Identify precursors to dystopian literature.
4.	Identify historical influences on dystopian literature.
5.	Identify selected major writers in dystopian literature and analyze their contribution to the genre.
6.	Read, analyze, and interpret dystopian literature.
7.	Write coherent essays about dystopian works.
8.	Demonstrate an undergraduate level understanding of various literary theoretical lenses and their application to the dystopian genre.
9.	Conduct research in relation to dystopian themes.
10.	Effectively use secondary and critical material in the study of literary texts.
11.	Demonstrate understanding of why dystopian literature capture the contemporary cultural imagination.

Course Content
Traditional literary analysis will be applied to Dystopian Works. Emphasis will be on the history and tradition of dystopian works, how they engage with contemporary socio-cultural ideals and trends, and why/how they capture contemporary cultural imagination. The approach to the course content may be historical, topical/thematic. or genre-based, but should include readings that address the tradition of the Dystopian genre as it relates to the speculative fiction, science fiction, and fantasy genres. Some texts may be in translation.

1. Dystopian Literature as a genre
   a. Dystopian fiction
   b. Utopian fiction
   c. Science fiction
   d. Speculative fiction
   e. Poetry
   f. Drama
   g. Related nonfiction
2. Precursors to dystopian fiction
   a. *Utopia*, by Thomas More
   b. *The New Atlantis,* Francis Bacon
   c. *The City of the Sun,* by Tomasso Campanella
   d. *The Blazing World,* by Margaret Cavendish
   e. Other works from major literary periods, which may include the following:
      i. English Romantic Writers
      ii. American Transcendentalists
      iii. Modernists
3. Overview of historical influences on dystopian fiction
   a. Paradigm shift from medieval to early modern era
      i. Capitalism
      ii. Enlightenment
   b. The Industrial Revolution
   c. Nuclear Technology and War
   d. Digital Age
4. Major figures in Dystopian Genre
   a. Contribution of major writers
   b. Contributions of major nonfiction writers
   c. Contributions of poets
   d. Contributions of playwrights
5. Literary Research
   a. Secondary Sources
   b. MLA Documentation

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	Reading Discussion, Critical Discussion
Lecture	Historical context lecture, sub-genre/author introductions
Other	Audio/Video productions, for example, film adaptations of major works, other important film genre works.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms
Discussion Boards
E-mail Communication
Telephone Conversations
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Essays/Papers	Formal Research essays, Literary Analysis Essays
Projects	Formal Research Projects concerning a particular aspect of the genre
Portfolios	Reader Response Journals, Essay Portfolios
Oral Presentations	Sub-Genre presentation, Discussion Leading
Exams/Tests	Timed Writing

Assignments

Reading Assignments

For example: Read *Brave New World* and be prepared to discuss in class the themes and cultural concerns of the post-World War I context of the novel. Follow up with research into the changing techno-cultural state of the world, and how the advent of nuclear technology changed the reading of *Brave New World* as socio-cultural criticism, and how Huxley addresses this in *Brave New World Revisited*.

For Example: Read poems from Percy Shelley and Lord Byron, and the short story "The Machine Stops" by E.M. Forster. Be prepared to discuss technology and its relationship with the natural world and capitalism.

Writing Assignments

For example: Keep a reader response journal for *The Handmaid's Tale*. For each chapter, write a one- to two-page entry. The response should reflect your understanding and interpretation of the text.

For example: After reading the short story "What it Means When a Man Falls From The Sky" and the novel *Frankenstein*, write a two-page essay in which you compare and contrast the theme of empathy in each text.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Huxley, Aldous

Title

Brave New World

Publisher

HarperCollins

Year

1932

Rationale

Classic Text

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Orwell, George

Title

1984

Publisher

Signet

Year

1961

Rationale
Classic Text

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Atwood, Margaret

Title
The Handmaid's Tale

Publisher
Anchor

Year
1986

Rationale
Classic Text

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Adams, John Joseph (Editor)

Title
Brave New Worlds

Publisher
Night Shade Books

Year
2011

Rationale
Classic Text

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Butler, Octavia E.

Title
Parable of the Sower

Publisher
Grand Central Publishing

Year
1993

Rationale
Classic Text

Material Type
Textbook

Author
Zamyatin, Yevgeny

Title
We

Publisher
Bantam

Year
1924

Rationale
Classic Text

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update
Yes

CB00 State ID
CCC000652261

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status
N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status
Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status
N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category
Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status
Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass
Yes

Only Pass/No Pass
No