

Brescia University College English 2024B, Section 530

The Blazing World to The Hunger Games: Girls, Women, Utopia, and Dystopia

Course Times: Wednesdays 8:30-10:30 am in person BR 136; Fridays 11:30-12:30 online

Instructor Information: Dr. Alicia Robinet, arobine3@uwo.ca

Office Hour: Wednesday 10:30-11:30 am in the Beryl Ivey Library

Calendar Course Description:

The relationship between women and utopia/dystopia can be traced from Margaret Cavendish's *The Blazing World*, and extends to tomorrow. This course will explore the history of feminist utopian/dystopian fiction, including works by Cavendish, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Joanna Russ, Ursula K. Le Guin, Marge Piercy, Margaret Atwood, Suzanne Collins, and others.

Antirequisite(s): [English 2877F/G](#).

Extra Information

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: CATEGORY B

Subject Code: ENGLISH

Delivery Method: Blended

(Students are responsible for obtaining the notes from any missed classes. In the event of a change in Ontario law and university policy as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, all classes will be held remotely and synchronously via zoom. Please check OWL and your Western e-mail account regularly for updates).

Required texts:

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*
Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves*
Octavia E. Butler, *Parable of the Sower*
Heidi Sopinka, *Utopia*

Date	Readings and Assignments
Wednesday, January 11	Syllabus Review
Friday, January 13	Introduction to Utopia and Dystopia
Wednesday, January 18	Margaret Cavendish, from <i>The Description of a New World, Called The Blazing-World</i> , excerpt available on OWL
Friday, January 20	Cavendish cont'd, excerpt available on OWL

Wednesday, January 25	Margaret Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
Friday, January 27	Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> continued
Wednesday, February 1	Atwood, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> cont'd
Friday, February 3	Joanna Russ, "When it Changed" available on OWL or here
Wednesday, February 8	"When it Changed" cont'd
Friday, February 10	Cherie Dimaline, <i>The Marrow Thieves</i>
Wednesday, February 15	Dimaline, <i>The Marrow Thieves</i> continued *Take-home Midterm Due
Friday, February 17	Dimaline, <i>The Marrow Thieves</i> continued
Wednesday, February 22	Reading Week
Friday, February 24	Reading Week
Wednesday, March 1	Octavia E. Butler, <i>Parable of the Sower</i>
Friday, March 3	Butler, <i>Parable of the Sower</i> cont'd
Wednesday, March 8	Butler, <i>Parable of the Sower</i> cont'd Essay Workshop
Friday, March 10	Rebecca Campbell, "The Fourth Trimester is the Strangest" Virtual author visit with Rebecca Campbell
Wednesday, March 15	<i>The Hunger Games</i> film
Friday, March 17	<i>The Hunger Games</i> film
Wednesday, March 22	Ursula K Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" Available on OWL *Research Essay Due
Friday, March 24	Heidi Sopinka, <i>Utopia</i>
Wednesday, March 29	Sopinka, <i>Utopia</i> cont'd
Friday, March 31	Sopinka, <i>Utopia</i> cont'd
Wednesday, April 5	Conclusion and Review

Assignments:

Participation: 10%

Story Soundtrack Presentation: 15%

Take-Home Midterm Exam (due Wednesday, February 15th): 15%

Research Essay (due Wednesday, March 22nd): 25%

Final Exam: 35%

Assignment Descriptions:

Participation:

This course relies on active student engagement and participation. We will engage in many small and large group conversations that work best with learners who are enthusiastic and receptive to their peers' contributions. Active listening is also an important element of a fully

participative class. My assessment will evaluate the quality and quantity of your contributions to class discussions, your preparation for class, participation in class activities, and active listening. At times, the instructor may request an OWL forum posting for class discussion. A note on attendance: you must be present to participate, but participation is more than presence. The use of electronic devices can interfere with participation and can affect classmates' learning. Please be respectful to our shared learning experience. The course's blended delivery will mean that students should participate both in class and during the online hour: please turn your camera on if possible and you are welcome to use the chat function during the online hour. If a student requires part of the grade to make up 15% of the course grade by March 2, the instructor reserves the right to assess 5% of the participation grade prior to the end of term.

Story Soundtrack Presentation:

You will present a song and text comparison to the class. The presentation should be approximately five to seven (5-7) minutes. Your presentation needs to respond to the assigned text on the syllabus by comparing it with a song you select. This presentation allows you to showcase your knowledge and engagement with the text at hand. Please refer to the assignment handout for specific details and expectations. Please see Heidi Sopinka's "literary soundtrack" to *Utopia* for inspiration [here](#).

Take-home Midterm:

Your take-home midterm will allow you to answer directed questions from the instructor. The take-home midterm will draw upon class discussion and course text content. We will review the format in class.

Research Essay:

Your research essay should be approximately four to six (4-6) pages in length (12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced) and follow MLA style guidelines. You need to cite at least two (2) scholarly sources in your essay. Please see the essay topics and assignment handout for specific details.

Final Exam:

To be scheduled by the Registrar during the final examination period.

Course policies:

Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day.

Assignments submitted more than seven (7) days after the due date without academic accommodations or permission from the instructor will be assigned a grade of 0.

Deadline to receive 15% of the course grade: March 2, 2023

All assignments will be submitted in the “Assignments” tab on OWL for review through Turnitin. The instructor takes academic offences seriously. Please cite material carefully to avoid unintentional plagiarism. If you are consulting online resources, please consult with the instructor to ensure their validity and cite them carefully should you choose to rely upon them in your written work.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Identify the characteristics of utopia and dystopia in a particular text and communicate their effects (**Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
2. Recognize and understand the impact of rhetorical or literary devices in utopic and dystopic works (**Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
3. Communicate their ideas about a literary or cultural text orally and in writing (**Communication; Critical Thinking**)
4. Understand and apply the basic rules of grammar in written projects (**Communication**)
5. Engage in academic research to complete an academic essay in MLA format (**Communication; Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
6. Evaluate and analyze their work and their classmates’ work (**Communication; Critical Thinking; Self Awareness and Development; Social Awareness and Engagement**)
7. Listen actively to their classmates and instructor during oral presentations (**Communication; Self Awareness and Development; Valuing**)
8. Present their ideas orally (**Communication, Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis**)
9. Analyze and attend to the political, moral, ethical, and social effects of utopia and dystopia (**Critical Thinking; Valuing**)

Copyright and Intellectual Property:

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student

Accessibility Services

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor

(https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar

(<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or

elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a 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.

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.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record.

This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
