

COURSE OUTLINE		
<b>TERM: Fall 2020</b>	<b>COURSE NO: POL 315</b>	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE: Utopias, Dystopias, and Political Thought</b>	
<b>OFFICE: LOCAL:</b> <b>E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca</b>	<b>SECTION NO(S):</b>	<b>CREDITS: 3</b>
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>		
<b>COURSE WEBSITE:</b>		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

### **COURSE FORMAT**

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework.

### **CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

Students in this course will study the tradition of Utopian and Dystopian literature and political thought throughout history, and identify how modern versions of this tradition (both literary and cinematic) may help or impede our attempts to find solutions to the political, social, and economic challenges we face today.

### **COURSE NOTE**

POL 100, 110, or 111 recommended but not required.

POL 315 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES**

Claeys, Gregory, et. al (eds). *The Utopian Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 1999.

Harvey, David. *Spaces of Hope*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.

### **COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:**

- Exhibit an understanding of the history of utopian and dystopian thought, primarily in the Western tradition.
- Explain the links between utopian and dystopian thought and the key themes of political discourse including (but not limited to): legitimacy; authority; rights and

responsibilities; individual rights and group rights; the origin of and limits to the institutions of the state; the state of nature, the social contract, and civil society; ideologies; theories of democracy; individualism vs. conformity; human nature; normative and empirical theories; order; and, of course, the nature of power.

- Identify the utility and limits of using utopian and dystopian thought as a tool for social transformation as we address our present political, economic, and social challenges.

### Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.
- Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.

### COURSE CONTENT

The following units will be covered in the course during the term. A detailed unit assignment and reading requirements will be provided in the first week of class.

- Introduction to Course
- Utopias, Dystopias, and Political thought
- “Pre-*Utopia*” Utopias: Confucius, Plato, St. Augustine
- Thomas More’s *Utopia* and Bacon’s *New Atlantis*
- Classical Liberal Utopias and Dystopias: Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau
- Adam Smith and Karl Polanyi: free market utopia or dystopia?
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Socialist Utopias: Morris’ *News from Nowhere* and Bellamy’s *Looking Backward*
- Marx’s Vision of a Communist Future
- Totalitarian Dystopias (*V For Vendetta*, Huxley’s *Brave New World*, Zamyatin’s *We*, Orwell’s *1984*)
- Feminist Utopias and Dystopias (*The Handmaid’s Tale*, Gilman’s *Herland*, Piercy’s *Woman on the Edge of Time*, Le Guin’s *The Dispossessed*, or Lessing’s *the Marriages Between Zones Three, Four and Five*).
- Ecotopias and Ecodystopias (*Solyent Green*, Callenbach’s *Ecotopia*, Robinson’s *Pacific Edge*, Starhawk’s *The Fifth Sacred Thing*)
- Minimalist State-based Utopias and Dystopias (*Blade Runner*, Ayn Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged*, Heinlein’s *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, Huxley’s *Island*)
- The Future of Utopian Thought

### EVALUATION PROFILE

Participation/Class Discussion	10%
Reading quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam/assignment	20%

Term Paper or Presentation	30%
Final Exam/assignment	<u>30%</u>
	100%

### Participation

Students are expected to attend classes, be on time, and to complete the readings. Participation grades will be based on punctuality, attendance, demonstration of knowledge of assigned readings, active and positive engagement in class discussions, and ability to raise critical questions and relevant, insightful and clear ideas in class.

### GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

### Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

### Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand. There may be penalties for late submission of assignments.

### Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

### English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

### Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

### On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or Moodle; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

## UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS

### Tools for Success

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

**Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)**

### Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

### Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

**Academic dishonesty** is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

**Cheating:** Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

**Fraud:** Creation or use of falsified documents.

**Misuse or misrepresentation of sources:** Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

**Plagiarism:** Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

**Self-Plagiarism:** Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

**Prohibited Conduct:** The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

### **Sexual Violence and Misconduct**

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

**Emergencies:** Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.