

Program in Cultures, Civilizations and Ideas
Humanities 112: Modernity and Tradition
Spring 2021

A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth even glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing. And when Humanity lands there, it looks out, and, seeing a better country, sets sail. Progress is the realization of Utopias. — Oscar Wilde, *The Soul of Man Under Socialism* (1891)

Instructor: Dr. Angelina Del Balzo

Email: angelina@bilkent.edu.tr

Office Location: G-B181 (basement level)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 13:00-15:00 by

appointment on Zoom

CCI Secretary: Süheyla Yılmaz

Email: altuns@bilkent.edu.tr

Office Location: G-224

Section 26: Tues. 11:30-12:20 (Spare Hour 10:30-11:20), Thurs. 15:30-17:20 [online]

Section 33: Tues. 15:30-16:20 (Spare Hour 16:30-17:20), Fri. 10:30-12:20 [online]

Section 34: Tues. 9:30-10:20 (Spare Hour 8:30-9:20), Thurs. 13:30-15:20 [online]

Course Description and Objectives

This course is the second in a two-semester sequence that considers the meaning of culture in the Western tradition: what it is, how it functions, and how we participate in it. Here, we will read texts from the European Middle Ages to the contemporary moment. Reading across genres of literature and philosophy, we will compare different strategies for making “meaning” through the written form and learn how to critically participate in our cultural environment. Right now, the pandemic has upended the world as we know it, and so this semester we will focus on readings that engage in world making and re-making. In doing so, we will consider: What different forms does world-making take? What are the historical and philosophical foundations of each imagined world? Who or what are missing or excluded from this world? How does speculation relate to knowledge production and artistic expression? We will grapple with these questions and others while developing skills in critical reading, analytical writing, and oral discussion.

Required Course Texts

- Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies* (Penguin, 2000) ISBN: 978-0140446890
- Thomas More, *Utopia* (Penguin, 2012) ISBN: 978-0-141-44232-7
- William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Oxford, 2008) ISBN: 978-0-19-953590-3
- Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World and Other Writings* (Penguin, 2004) ISBN: 978-0-140-43372-2
- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Verso, 2012) ISBN: 978-1844678761
- Ursula Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walked Away from Omelas”
- Octavia E. Butler, “Speech Sounds”

All will be available as PDFs on Moodle, and all but the Butler and Le Guin are available to purchase at the bookstore or online. Please make sure you have a copy of the text BEFORE we begin discussing the text in class.

Course Requirements

Participation (10%): **This course is modeled on the seminar rather than the lecture format.** Seminars require students to actively contribute to group discussions, rather than passively listen to an instructor’s presentation. To get an A in participation, you must do the assigned reading listed on the syllabus before class

meets, attend classes **with a copy of the text**, and regularly contribute to discussion (at least once a week). Both speaking and writing in the chat count as class participation.

***A note on participation:** Some students feel like they don't know enough about the topic to participate, or their English isn't strong enough, or have a variety of other reasons why they don't feel comfortable participating. However, I promise you that everyone else is in the same boat. Participation is crucial for the learning process and is also important as one of the main ways beyond graded assessments that I can understand how students are understanding the material. You will never be graded on if your contribution is "right." Participation, much like close-reading and academic writing, is a skill you develop through practice, not a gift you are born with or without. In your participation grade, I am also looking for development and improvement over the semester. It is never too late to participate!

Quizzes (30%): Throughout the semester there will be three quizzes on Moodle given in the first hour of the section listed on the syllabus. There will be 2-3 reading comprehension questions and 1 short answer response. All quizzes will be counted towards the final grade.

Course Project (30%): The course project will have two parts: an analytical close-reading and a creative description of a utopia, dystopia, or alternative world of your own creation. Further details to follow.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will be two close-readings and two short-answers based on provided prompts. Date and time TBA. Further details to follow.

Grading

93-100%	A	Outstanding	73-76%	C	Pass
90-92%	A-		70-72%	C-	
87-89%	B+	Very Good	67-69%	D+	
83-86%	B		60-66%	D	Lowest Grade for Credit
80-82%	B-	Good	Below 60%	F	Fail
77-79%	C+				

I am always happy to discuss your work and ways to improve in office hours. You may request a formal regrade of any assignment, but please be aware that your grade **may go up or down**.

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Per Bilkent policy, the grade **FZ** will appear on the transcript of those who miss more than **20%** of our scheduled meetings (8 hours of class time), regardless of reason. Late arrivals count toward the hourly total. **20% is the absolute maximum you can miss and still pass the class.** You never know when you may need to miss class, so please plan accordingly. I recognize, however, that we are in an ongoing emergency situation. **Please get in touch via email if persistent obstacles arise.** I will do my best to be as flexible as I can be within university policies.

Communication: The best way to discuss your work is during my office hours on Zoom, which will be arranged **by email appointment.** I need **at least 3 days' notice** to arrange a meeting. For all email correspondence, I will respond within a day during the week, but I will not answer email on the weekends. **I will not respond to emails regarding assignments sent 24 hours before the deadline or sent within 24 hours after assignments are returned.** Make sure that you are following the syllabus, completing the readings on time, starting major assignments before the week they are due, and communicating your issues with me before any university deadlines. **A failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine.**

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of ideas or words of another without citation. The work you do for this course must be your own. Any instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but at a minimum plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment in question. Other consequences may include failing the course and possible expulsion from the university. For the university policy on plagiarism, see https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/web/provost/SAIC_Students.pdf

Technology: Please be aware of how your technology usage affects those your engagement with the class and those around you. Cell phones may be used for dictionaries during class (on silent) but will not be allowed for the final exam. Cameras should be on in possible and microphones muted when not speaking.

Course Schedule [subject to change]

Week	Session 1	Session 2
1 January 27-29	Course introduction	N/A
2 February 1-5	De Pizan: <i>City of Ladies</i> (1405) • Read Part I pg. 5-28	<i>City of Ladies</i> • Read Part I pg. 33-46, 86-7
3 February 8-12	<i>City of Ladies</i> • Read Part II pg. 91-103, 107-12, 139-44	<i>City of Ladies</i> • Read Part II pg. 150-2, 171-2, 195-8, Part III pg. 201-2, 235-40 • Quiz #1 at beginning of class
4 February 15-19	More: <i>Utopia</i> (1516) • Read Book I pg. 11-36	<i>Utopia</i> • Read Book I pg. 36-55
5 February 22-26	<i>Utopia</i> • Read Book II pg. 57-91 • *SPARE HOUR*	<i>Utopia</i> • Read Book II pg. 91-122 • Quiz #2 at beginning of class
6 March 1-5	Shakespeare: <i>The Tempest</i> (1611) • Read Act I	<i>Tempest</i> • Read Act II
7 March 8-12	<i>Tempest</i> • Read Act III	<i>Tempest</i> • Read Act IV • Course Project due 23:59 Sunday on Moodle
8 March 15-19	No class	No class

<p>9 March 22-26</p>	<p><i>Tempest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Act V 	<p>Finish <i>Tempest</i> discussion</p>
<p>10 March 29-April 2</p>	<p>Cavendish: <i>The Blazing World</i> (1666)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 123-145 	<p><i>Blazing World</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 145-163
<p>11 April 5-9</p>	<p><i>Blazing World</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 163-188 • *SPARE HOUR* 	<p><i>Blazing World</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read pg. 188-225
<p>12 April 12-16</p>	<p>Marx and Engels: <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (1848)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Intro and Part I pg. 33-50 	<p><i>Communist Manifesto</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Part II pg. 50-62 • Quiz #3 at beginning of class
<p>13 April 19-23</p>	<p><i>Communist Manifesto</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Part III pg. 62-75 and Part IV pg. 75-77 	<p>No class</p>
<p>14 April 26-30</p>	<p>Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walked Away From Omelas" (1973)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read all 	<p>"Omelas"</p>
<p>15 May 3-7</p>	<p>Butler, "Speech Sounds" (1983)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read all 	<p>"Speech Sounds"</p>
<p>16 May 10-11</p>	<p>Review Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *SPARE HOUR* 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Finals Week May 17-30</p>	<p>Date and Time TBA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam 	