



**Course:** UNIV 100 – Section H19    **Theme:** Culture & Literature

**Course Topic:** *Utopian & Dystopian Literature*

**Description:** Visions of utopia—the “good place”—have animated social thinking about the good life and ethical politics for millennia. Over the last century, the conversation has shifted to the topic of dystopia—the “bad place”—due to concerns about the impact of various calamities—social, political, and environmental. This course will provide an introduction to the concepts of utopia and dystopia by exploring their meaning, history, and value today. This will be achieved through a survey of the major literature, films, social theories, and movements associated with these terms. Course readings will include key texts in the utopian/dystopian tradition, such as Sir Thomas More’s *Utopia*, Edward Bellamy’s *Looking Backward*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Herland*, and George Orwell’s *1984*. We will apply the concepts of utopia and dystopia to contemporary pop culture and political debates, as well as pose the question, “What is utopia?”