

5.00 credits

15.0 h

Q2

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| Teacher(s) | Bragard Véronique ; |
| Language : | English |
| Place of the course | Louvain-la-Neuve |
| Prerequisites | An introductory knowledge of English literature and a good proficiency in English (advanced level, B2 + in terms of the Common European reference framework). |
| Main themes | This course offers a survey of contemporary literatures in English through the analysis of several representative works from distinct geographical/cultural areas. This course also includes the showing and discussion of adaptations for film and/or television. |
| Learning outcomes | <p>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be expected to show their ability to relate texts that illustrate one or more literary currents to the historical and literary contexts explored in the course. - They will have to produce an analysis that demonstrates their familiarity with the issues raised by the course, and with the poetics through which those issues are expressed. - The module is also indirectly meant to increase the students' lexical skills. Their analyses will therefore have to reflect a command of the English language that corresponds to their level (Masters), as well as a good grasp of the various cultural concepts discussed in the course. |
| Evaluation methods | In-class group assignment, creative work & written exam. |
| Teaching methods | Ex-cathedra class. Interactive modules. Students are expected to do the required readings beforehand so as to be able to participate actively in classroom discussions. |
| Content | <p>Utopian thought has often been associated with naïve or static totalitarian models. However, while dystopian texts and films/series expose a new kind of political literature, which examines the dangerous possibilities inherent in the utopian project, other creative texts provide one with inspiring alternatives. This course analyzes a number of key dystopian and utopian texts to raise gender-related and sustainability issues and consider how gender roles and practices can contribute to sustainability in a posthuman world of climate change. Through the comparative study of several utopian, dystopian, and ecotopian literary texts (including the works of Gilman, Huxley, Orwell, Butler, Atwood, Powers, Hegland, Robinson), we consider visions of better worlds in the way they emerge as frightening warnings or prioritize alternative modes for the future. Utopian thought is a crucial means of understanding the past, the Anthropocene/pyrocene/symbiocene/phonocene, and our transcultural future as regards questions of gender, social, cultural and political organization. Starting with definitions of sustainability and gender studies, this course considers the ways in which the contemporary and the posthuman can be explored in an imagined utopian future that addresses the major components of human-nature relations, ways of life and social structures suggested by these literary texts. Through guided in-class discussion, readings and creative exercises, students will attempt to imagine their own viable utopias. This year's class will focus on rituals and how they shape communities. How can literature create a sense of collective agency (Caroline Levine)? Rituals structure social life, they express a community's values via symbolic gestures. How do fictional works depict and reconnect with collective rituals? We will compare how a number of (dis)utopian novels foreground rituals (burials, prayer, meals, storytelling), thereby emphasizing how ritualistic modes facilitate group cohesion and cooperation. We will also look at the ritualistic functions writing and storytelling entail.</p> |
| Other infos | Teaching material : Secondary literature linked to the topic of the course. Reading of the selected literary works and of scholarly articles. Notes and extracts on moodle. |
| Faculty or entity in charge | ELAL |

| Programmes containing this learning unit (UE) | | | | |
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| Program title | Acronym | Credits | Prerequisite | Learning outcomes |
| Certificat universitaire en littérature | LITT9CE | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Anthropology | ANTR2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Communication | CORP2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [60] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English | GERM2M1 | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Information and Communication Science and Technology | STIC2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [60] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General | ROGE2M1 | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in History | HIST2M | 5 | |  |
| Advanced Master in Gender Studies | GENR2MC | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Psychology | PSY2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Population and Development Studies | SPED2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Ethics | ETHI2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Philosophy | FILO2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : German, Dutch and English | GERM2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Modern Languages and Literatures : General | ROGE2M | 5 | |  |
| Master [120] in Journalism | EJL2M | 5 | |  |