Political theory is usually taught through non-fictional texts, but this seminar will focus on the political imagination of a variety of thinkers. Utopia and dystopia have old roots but are also contemporary. This seminar will focus on the political ideas and ideals in utopias and dystopias, starting with Thomas More’s Utopia (who coined the term). We will read novels, one prose description of a utopia, and watch at least two films. We will investigate what utopias and dystopias tell us about our own society and how and why the genre changed over time.

Requirements
Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and should bring the assigned reading to class with them. Class will be run through discussion; I will rarely, if ever, lecture. There will be two exams and two papers, each five pages long. The first exam is worth 15% of the grade; the second exam is worth 25%; each paper is worth 25% of the grade; participation is worth the remaining 10%.

Readings
More, *Utopia* (Penguin)
Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels* (Signet)
Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (Bantam)
Zamyatin, *We* (Modern Library)
Gilman, *Herland* (Dover)
Leguin, *The Dispossessed* (EOS)
Owen, *A New View of Society* (available from Sakai)

Sakai can be reached at https://sakai.unc.edu/portal. For help on Sakai, you can go to http://blog.sakai.unc.edu/students/.

I may make small changes to the syllabus as the semester progresses.
### August
23 Introduction  
25 More, *Utopia*, Book 1  
30 More, *Utopia*, Book 2

### September
1 Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, Part I  
6 Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, Part II  
8 Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, Part III  
13 Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, Part IV  
15 First Exam; begin Metropolis (film)  
20 Metropolis (film)  
22 Metropolis (film), discussion  
27 Owen, *A New View of Society*, pp. 1-43  
29 No class

### October
6 Gilman, *Herland*, pp. 32-71  
11 Gilman, *Herland*, pp. 72-124  
13 Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, pp. 1-66  
18 Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, pp. 67-140  
20 Fall Break  
25 First Paper Due  
27 Zamyatin, *We*, 3-70

### November
1 Zamyatin, *We*, 71-139  
3 Zamyatin, *We*, 140-203  
8 Gattaca (film)  
10 Gattaca (film)  
15 Second Exam  
17 Leguin, *The Dispossessed*, 1-90  
22 Leguin, *The Dispossessed*, 91-191  
24 Thanksgiving  
29 Leguin, *The Dispossessed*, 192-387

### December
1 Leguin, *The Dispossessed*, 308-387  
6 Conclusion; Final Papers Due

---

**Grading Scale**  
All grades will be given on a scale of 0 to 100, with each ten points (between 60 and 100) representing a full grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>62 or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Students and faculty at UNC are governed by the Honor Code, and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who is caught attempting to represent someone else’s work as their own or to cheat in any other manner will be subject to university discipline under the Honor Code.