Spring Quarter 2015
English 415/515: American Post-Apocalyptic and Dystopian Fiction

Location: Language and Literature 106D
Days and Times: T Th 3:00-4:40
Instructor: Dr. Toni Čuljak
Office: Language & Literature 403D
Phone: 963-1531
Email: CuljakT@cwu.edu
Office Hours: T Th 2:00-2:50 in LL 106D; W 1:00-2:00 in Dean Hall 103(AIS students) and by appointment

Course Description: Critical Studies in American Literature focuses on a specific grouping of works in a specific genre written by American authors. In this course we will examine post-apocalyptic fiction and dystopian fiction. Post-apocalyptic fiction is set in a world or civilization that exists after a disaster has threatened the end of human civilization. Frequently but not always, the societies at the center of dystopian fiction arise after an apocalyptic event. The societies in dystopian novels are characterized by the limitations on individual freedom and autonomy. They often include as mass poverty, public mistrust, totalitarian or fascist government, inequality based on race, gender, social and economic class, and oppression in the form of governmental (physical or technological) intrusion into citizens’ lives. In the words of Keith M. Booker, dystopian literature is used to "provide fresh perspectives on problematic social and political practices that might otherwise be taken for granted or considered natural and inevitable". In this class we will explore the 20th and 21st century fascination with these literary works and the societies they present.

Required Readings:
- Sinclair Lewis, It Can’t Happen Here, NAL, 1935.

Academic Credit and Work Load: CWU stipulates that one credit = a total time commitment of three hours each week of the quarter.
- This is a five credit course and will require 15 hours of work/week
- This takes into account 3 hours and 20 minutes of class (T Th 3:00 to 3:40 pm)
- This leaves 11 hours and 40 minutes/week for reading, discussion preparation, research, and study for exams.

Performance Policy:
- Students are responsible for knowing all material presented in class and all assigned readings.
- Cheating on tests and quizzes or plagiarizing (i.e., failure to acknowledge the source of ideas or information that are not your own) will result in an "F" for the course.
- Deadline extensions, make-up exams, and/or incompletes will not be given except in emergency situations. In-class activities (e.g., small-group discussions) cannot be made up.
Readings: Reading is part of active learning; you are responsible for this material. Download the readings, read them with care, take notes, and reread them after class lectures and discussions.

- Aside the required novels, any additional readings will be posted in PDF form to the English 415/515 Canvas site. The readings and class lectures are designed to complement one another not to substitute for each other.
- Readings should be completed at the start of the week for which they are assigned.
- If you do not understand the reading materials, you are expected to ask questions in class or office hours.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given regularly on lecture and reading materials. Quizzes will cover the “novel of the week” and may be given at any time to insure you have completed the book, including the day we begin discussing the novel. They may take the form of short answer, T/F, multiple choice, or short essay questions or a combination of these options.

Analytical papers:
- All students will be assigned two papers (length and complexity of the papers will differ for undergraduate and graduate students)
- Papers should conform to the MLA Guidelines as to format and documentation.
- Citations must be included (MLA format). Students without a lot of experience with documentation consider using an online citation site like Easy Bib: http://www.easybib.com or BibMe: http://www.bibme.org These sites are free and will format the information according MLA if given the correct input.
- It should go without saying, but I will say it anyway, papers should be cleanly printed, properly formatted, carefully edited, and proofread.
- Students will not be allowed to revise papers to improve their grades.

Assessment Tools and Grading Percentages:
- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Analytical papers 60% total
- Quizzes 20%

Grade Scale: Letter grades will be assigned for each assignment based on the CWU grade scale:

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<th>Points</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84-86</td>
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<td>74-76</td>
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<td>70-73</td>
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Disability Support Services: Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give each instructor a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” from Disability Support Services Office as soon as possible so we can discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171.

Academic Misconduct: You are expected to do your own work. A student who copies another individual's work (including a fellow student's work), with or without permission, is guilty of cheating. The penalty for cheating is failure in this course and a charge of academic misconduct. The penalty for allowing another student to copy your work is failure in this course and a charge of academic misconduct. Failure to properly document ideas or written work attributable to another author is plagiarism. The penalty for plagiarism is failure in the course
and a charge of academic misconduct. Unless noted, the paper assignments in this course are not designed to require the use of outside sources.

**Attendance, Participation, and Classroom Etiquette:** Attendance policy is based on the principle that essential demonstrations of adult responsibility and maturity are punctuality and preparedness. Your participation grade is based on your respectful and informed contributions to classroom discussions and your attendance. You are expected to attend class (to arrive on time and remain until class is dismissed). **Attendance is taken via a sign-in sheet. It is the student's responsibility to sign the sheet each day.** Frequent tardiness will impact your class participation grade. If you must miss class, please notify one of your instructors by telephone, e-mail, in writing, or in person as to when and why you will be or were absent. Our phones are equipped with voice mail so that you may leave a message. Student athletes are expected to provide a list of dates they will be absent for sports events.

**For all students, more than six (4) absences (either “excused” or "unexcused") will result in failure of the in-class portion of this course. This does not mean that you are entitled to miss 4 class periods, rather that we make allowances for the vagaries of life including illness and emergencies.**

You are expected to behave respectfully and appropriately with your classmates and professor. You should not have private conversations during class time.

**Incompletes:** In accordance with university policy, incompletes are given solely as a response to emergency situations and at the discretion of the instructor. They are not given to provide a student an opportunity to raise a failing grade. In order to receive an incomplete, a student must be passing at the time of the request. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor and make arrangements to complete the course. To earn a grade, a student must complete the work for the course as prescribed by the instructor. You paid for the course; finish it.

**Use of CWU email:** All official communications with current students are supposed to be sent to the student’s CWU email accounts. Many students use an alternate email account or alternate internet service provider for their email. We will only send email to and respond only to emails sent from the email address listed with the Registrar's Office.

**Cell Phones and Computers:**
- Please obtain permission from instructor(s) to use laptops, recording devices, etc.
- Use a computer only for taking class notes. If you use your computer to surf the net or complete assignments for other classes, etc., you will be asked to leave the room and lose credit for attendance/participation for that day.
- **Turn your cell phone off and leave it in your bag or pocket.**
- Texting in class is absolutely not tolerated. If you are using your phone/texting in class, you will be asked to leave the room immediately marked absent for that day.
- If it is necessary to keep your phone on due to an emergency situation, please inform us of the situation, put the phone on vibrate, and if you receive a call leave quietly and quickly to take the call.
- **Violation of cell phone and computer use policies will negatively affect participation grade, and being asked to leave due to such violations will count as a class absence.**

If you have an issue with the above requirements, please see me after class or during office hours.
English 415/515: Post-Apocalyptic and Dystopian Fiction
Calendar of Readings, Assignments, and Activities (subject to modification)

Week 1
Reading: Sinclair Lewis, *It Can’t Happen Here*. Due 4/7
3/31 Tu: Syllabus and course expectations
Post-Apocalyptic and Dystopian Fiction
4/2 Th: Discussion

Week 2
4/7 T: Historical Precedents - Fascism and Totalitarianism
4/9 Th: Discussion

Week 3
Readings: Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*. Due 4/14
4/14 T: The Machine Apocalypse
4/16 Th: Discussion

Week 4
4/21 T: Slavery: America’s Dystopian History
4/23 Th: Moral Ambiguities

Week 5
Readings: Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Due 4/30
4/28 T: Religion and Dystopias
4/30 Th: Gender and Power

Week 6
Readings: Sheri Tepper, *The Gate to Woman’s Country*. Due 5/7
5/5 T: Reproductive Freedom
5/7 Th: Defining a Woman’s Utopia

Week 7
5/12 T: Social Engineering
5/14 Th: Discussion

Week 8
Readings: Veronica Roth, *Divergent*. Due 5/19
5/19 T: Redefining the Hero(ine)
5/21 Th: SOURCE – No class
Individual meetings with instructor to discuss progress on writing assignment 2.

Week 9
5/26 T: Dystopian Trilogies – Part I
5/28 Th: Escaping a Dystopia to Create a Dystopia

Week 10
6/2 T: Alien Apocalypse
6/4 Th: Dystopian Trilogies – Part II

Final Exam period: Thursday June 11, 2:00-4:00PM
Internet, Cell-Phones, and Texting Policy:

Obviously, the use of electronic devices in modern society has become increasingly commonplace. But the use of such devices is not generally allowed in a class setting. This includes listening to music on I-Pods or other media players, texting or talking on cell phones, emailing, instant messaging, shopping, or ‘surfing’ the internet on I-Pads, laptops or other devices, as well as playing games or watching video, etc. As these activities are disrespectful and distracting in a learning environment (to you, the instructor and other students), the professors reserve the right to ask students using such devices and engaging in such activities to leave class immediately. If you are asked to leave the class for one of the above-listed infractions, please do not argue the point with the instructor or make a scene upon leaving. Just get up and depart. Students asked to leave will not be readmitted to the class without first coming to the office hours of one of the professors and discussing the issue at length with them. If you have a problem with any aspects of this policy, then do not take this course.

Please turn off or silence all electronic devices at the start of class and use laptops or I-Pads for notes and (occasionally when allowed by the professors) certain in-class assignments only. If you are the kind of person who cannot sit through a course that meets for only a little more than forty-five minutes without using your phone or texting someone, then this class is NOT for you.

By signing this page, you are acknowledging that you understand and accept the above policy. This page should be read, signed, and detached from the syllabus and turned into the instructors on your first day in class.

Signature: ___________________________  Print full name clearly: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________