

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	General Education
<b>Programme:</b>	Combined Studies
<b>Level:</b>	3
<b>Course Title:</b>	Utopia and Dystopia
<b>Course Code:</b>	FYS 3105
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Sara Chetin
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	160
Lectures:	30
Seminar / Tutorials:	30
Independent / Guided Learning :	100
<b>Semester:</b>	
<b>Credits:</b>	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

### **Course Description:**

Utopias are fairytales, dreams and visions about perfect worlds and future societies. Dystopias are the opposite - nightmare scenarios of oppressive and totalitarian outcomes from social, political, economic, cultural and technological developments in the contemporary world. Crucially, one person's utopia can be another person's dystopia! First year students are encouraged to immerse themselves in these alternative (but-not-too-far-off-our-own) worlds in a range of mediums - but particularly through film and literature. *Utopias and Dystopias* provides a broad framework for the development of critical thinking skills, as well as providing an indirect route to critical commentary on our own societies.

**Prerequisites: none**

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To provide a broad historical overview of the development of utopias and dystopias through a range of media and sources – and to foster appreciation of the importance of these sources
- To provide students with an appreciation of both justifications for and the implications of social, political, economic, cultural, and technological changes in the contemporary world
- To provide a broad introduction to themes and issues dealt with in particular in a

range of Major and Minor streams in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Communications, Creative Writing, Gender Studies, History, International Relations, Literature, Political Science, and Sociology

- To introduce students to the means by which they can monitor, build and reflect upon their personal development.

**Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

3A(i); 3B(i); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the spectrum of utopian forms
- Critically evaluate basic political concepts and approaches to these forms
- Demonstrate an understanding of the contemporary utopian issues related to aesthetics, the environment, technology and the body, sex and gender, ecstasy, modernity and politics
- Reflect on their own learning experiences and life experiences and relate this to utopian and dystopian concerns
- Demonstrate a reflection of their own academic and social skills and be able to plan for their personal, educational and career development.

**Indicative Content:**

Historical overview of Utopias from the Ancient Greeks to More, Bacon and Kant

Dystopias and political regimes

Anti-Utopias

Post-Modern Dystopias

Aesthetics

Technology and body

Sex and Gender

Ecstasy

PDP

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

