Course Description and Purpose
In this course, we explore the utopian imagination by tracing its development from its ancient precursors to its modern manifestations. Through the readings and discussions, we address the shifts in utopian thought as it was shaped by contemporary sociopolitical realities and the relationships between the utopian imagination and these realities — perennial yearning for better days-past transformed into hopes of a perfect society to come; self-conscious warnings of authors faced with the real results of the planned society; dystopian fantasies looking ahead to the new frontiers of technology, and the uncertain future of humanity. We look, too, at the attempts at remedying this reality socially and politically, and ask whether we have seen an end to utopianism in the post-modern or neo-liberal world order. Ultimately, we attempt to understand the importance of the utopian imagination in terms of its place in the “great conversation” about what it means to be a human being.

Course Objectives
At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:
1. Trace the historical development of utopian thinking from its ancient precursors to the present day;
2. Describe some of the key texts of utopian literature;
3. Discuss the relationship of social, political, and religious ideas to the utopian imagination;
4. Recognize and analyze various patterns and ideas central to utopian thought; and
5. Analyze utopian literature and its place in the “great conversation”.

Policies
Before starting this course, please review the following pages:
   - Policies
   - Netiquette (links to an external site.)
Course Prerequisites
Review the Course Catalog (links to an external site.) webpage for prerequisites information.

Textbook and Course Materials

**Three Early Modern Utopia**  
Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Henry Neville  
Oxford University Press, 2008-11-13  
ISBN-10: 9780199537990  
You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore (links to an external site).

**The Communist Manifesto**  
Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels  
Penguin, 2002  
ISBN-10: 0140447571  
You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore (links to an external site).

**The Concept of the Political**  
Carl Schmitt  
The University of Chicago Press, 2007  
ISBN-10: 0226738922  
You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore (links to an external site).

You will be responsible for reading the above books as assigned in the course calendar. Additional readings will be provided by me and are marked accordingly (PDF) in the Course Calendar.

Most of the books assigned can be found online. I have included a link in the modules to the best online versions I’ve found. Should you wish to own all of the physical books, Utopia and The New Atlantis may be purchased separately from Dover Publications, or together in anthology. Any edition of The Manifesto of the Communist Party will suffice.
Expectations of this Course
This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:
- Review the getting started page located in the course modules;
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- Interact online with instructor and peers;
- Review and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- Respond to discussions by the due date specified. No late work will be accepted;
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

Course Communication
Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial (links to an external site) or Canvas Guide (links to an external site) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 48 hours.

Discussion Forums
Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion Forum Expectations: You are expected to read all assigned material and be prepared to discuss it intelligently in the Discussion Forum.

Each week you will find a PDF with notes by me introducing the text to be read in its broad historical, philosophical and literary (or even mythological) context. At three points during the course, punctuating the start, half-way mark, and close of the course, there will also be zoom interventions by me which will frame the larger discussion on the utopian imagination. After you have read my notes and watched my lectures, you can go on to do the assigned reading. Because of the short amount of time we have in the class, the readings I have chosen aren’t very long (relatively speaking); however, I would encourage you to take as much time as possible to be able to read them thoroughly without rushing through them. This means that you are recommended to begin reading right away and read ahead of the assigned dates.

As this is a fully online class, the Discussion Forum is the main mode of interaction for the course. You are therefore expected to discuss the read or watched material on the Discussion Fo-
rum. Anyone may begin a discussion at any time on the topic assigned for the week (see below) and based on the preceding lectures or notes. You should post a **minimum** of twice per week, **beginning with Week 1**, to demonstrate comprehension of the course readings and lecture materials. One posting per week should be original (you derive the discussion topic based on the week's materials) and the second should be in response to at least one other posting (a students’ or the professors’). Original postings should be completed by Friday/11:59PM and response postings must be completed by Sunday/11:59PM. This ensures that there are enough original postings for other students to respond to during the week.

Original postings are required to be a minimum of 200 words. Response postings should be a minimum of 100 words.

In preparing for this assignment you should familiarize yourself not only with the readings and my notes or lectures, but also with its historical context, its author, its literary and philosophical antecedents and political implications, etc. You are encouraged to bring your own expertise and interests to bear on the discussion.

Mere postings of “I liked X” or “I was surprised by Y”, while of course welcomed, are not what I'm looking for. Pick an idea, motif, story, etc., that struck as particularly interesting and begin a conversation. What we want are conversations that take us beyond the assigned material.

Finally, this will also be the proper place to raise any questions you may have about something I said in my notes or lectures.

**First and last rule of the Discussion Forum: Always be respectful.**

**Major Course Assignment**

You will have one major assignment for this course. It will culminate in a 5-10 minute video lecture or presentation on a topic, as described below. Throughout the semester, you will produce a research portfolio, showing your research and preparation for the lecture/presentation.

The actual number of items in the portfolio will vary, but it must as a minimum include the following items:

- two- to three-page outline of the lecture/presentation
- rough draft of the text of the presentation
- annotated images, maps, tables, etc. if used
- annotated bibliography

You will upload your videos to the course website during the penultimate week of the semester. Please refer to the class calendar for the due date.

The assignment is intended to allow you to integrate the material we will read and to apply it in a creative way by focusing on one (or more; see below) salient element of the utopian imagination. It entails choosing an idea, motif, story, etc., that strikes you as particularly interesting from any
of works we will have read and writing an analysis of it by tracing the shape it takes across the various works. One way of doing this would be to examine the idea, motif, or story in historical progression from its earliest appearance in the literature to its contemporary manifestations. In doing this you could note how each author has worked with the idea, motif, or story, perhaps consciously adapting it from its earlier forms. Another way would be engaging in a comparative analysis of the various forms the idea, motif, or story has taken beyond any historical relationship. Or again, you could take one idea, motif, or story and contrast it with one or more other idea, etc., so that together they help to illuminate one or more aspects of the utopian imagination. Anyway, you will of course need to do additional research. I encourage you to bring in your own expertise — all majors and interests should have something to contribute.

*This assignment meets the Research Skill and Interdisciplinarity and Connectivity student learning outcomes for The Honors College portfolio.*

**Zoom Video Conference**

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to discuss the material with a little less formality. There will be three meetings worth 10 points each.

The meetings will be 20-30 minutes in duration.

They will take place Wednesdays at 9:00 PM EST. Recordings of each meeting will be available shortly after the meeting ends by clicking on the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. If you cannot attend the live meeting, you can watch the recording and submit a short summary in order to receive half-credit.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Points for Each</th>
<th>Total Points Available</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussions</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom Meetings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Portfolio</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Letter Grade Distribution Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 or above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91 - 92</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81 - 83</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 90</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 80</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honors College Policies and Requirements

Academic Misconduct Procedures and Policies: In The Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Academic Misconduct Procedures available at https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/academic-integrity/index.php. Please refer to the following documents for additional information: FIU Student Handbook: https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/about/student-handbook/index.php.

Student Portfolios: The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students’ learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what “artifacts” or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. Portfolios provide a rich context for students to show what they have learned and to explain their learning process. Because the Honors curriculum is meant to be thought-provoking and reflective, student self-assessment through portfolios will facilitate learning and provide in-depth assessment. Each Honors College course includes at least one assignment that could potentially fit portfolio requirements. http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/portfolio/.

Honors Engagement: Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 engagement points each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 engagement points. Each activity has a point value. Students may select which events and activities they want to attend. The new system is designed to be more flexible for students, offering events at various days and times (including some weekend events) and allowing for a variety of ways to meet the requirements. Please plan accordingly. http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/citizenship/

Community Service: Honors College students must also complete 20 volunteer service hours. These hours DO NOT count toward the 20 engagement points discussed above. http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/community-service/.

Honors Education in the Arts (HEARTS): The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to “explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions
and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and access to performances with free or discounted tickets. http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/hearts/

Resources:

**Panthers Care & Counseling & Psychological Services:** If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate’s well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with FIU’s Panthers Care website.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Learn more about CAPS at caps.fiu.edu. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don’t wait to call 305-348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.