

## ENGLISH 254, Themes in Literature Spring 2023



### **Dystopia, Utopia, and Science Fiction**

Mark Tabone Section 001, TR 2:30-3:45, CRN# 20654

**Course Description:** What do the best and worst of all possible worlds look like? What can they tell us about our own? This course explores science fictions that attempts to answer these questions. Students will read powerful and influential works of utopian and dystopian literature that imagine fantastical new worlds and societies, and grapple with human desires for a better life and, quite frequently, confront human desires for power and control. In the process, the course provides a critical vocabulary for reading and understanding these texts. Because utopias and dystopias serve as tools for diagnosing society's ills and speculating about remedies, the course also examines what these texts can tell us about our present world as well as our prospects for the future, especially as they relate to still-relevant issues in ethics, politics, sociology, technology, the environment, social status, identity, and the kind of world we would like to live in.

### **Man and Machine: Self, Career, and Technology in a Changing World**

Sara Melton Section 002, TR 11:20-12:35, CRN# 20655

**Course Description:** This course will examine "the myth of vocation"-that is, the tendency to expect of one's work more than it can usually provide: self-esteem and satisfaction, for instance. We'll look particularly at how literary works have reflected the different concepts of "men's work" and "women's work," and trace the differing philosophies of work and career shown in fiction and drama during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Finally, we'll consider how our current philosophy of work has developed, and the role that technology and robotics have played and will play in our ideas and ideals of career.

**All sections of English 254 satisfy UT's General Education requirements in both Arts & Humanities (AH) and Communicating through Writing (WC).**