

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
COURSE OUTLINE - SOCIOLOGY 3362F-001 ('Sociology of Utopia')**

TERM:	Fall Term 2018
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Michael E. Gardiner
OFFICE:	SSC 5424 (661-2111, ex. 85139; e-mail: megardin@uwo.ca)
CLASS TIME & LOCATION	M 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (SSC 4444)
OFFICE HOURS:	Thurs. 2:00 - 3:30 pm (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will concentrate on the formation of the Western utopian tradition in sociology, including the ideas of the main theorists of utopia, the history of modern "intentional communities", and current debates within utopian social thought.

Prerequisite(s):

Third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology or Criminology.

Antirequisite(s): N/A

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

- * Have a deep and broad understanding of contemporary social theory as it relates to utopianism
- * Understand how social theory informs other branches of sociology
- * Significantly develop their critical and creative thinking & writing skills
- * Develop presentation skills (clearly express ideas and arguments orally & lead discussions)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Lucy Sargisson, *Fool's Gold? Utopianism in the Twenty-First Century*, Houndmills and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Peter Frase, *Four Futures: Visions of the World After Capitalism*, London and New York: Verso, 2016.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Oral presentation:	20%
Proposal	10%
Participation:	15%
Notes:	10%
Final paper:	45%
Total:	100%

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

This course will be run on a seminar basis. Each student will be expected to give one oral presentation based on a class reading and submit each in written form one week after the presentation is given (1500 words, 5-6 pages, double-spaced). This will be a critical synopsis of the reading designed to raise specific questions for debate and analysis, using primary texts where possible. The seminar report will be worth 20% of the final grade. (If the student misses their presentation without legitimate and documentable reason, they will automatically lose 25% of the value of this assignment.) Students must submit an outline of the proposed term paper, of minimum two pages (can be in point-form and must include a bibliography listing at least six publications, at least three outside of class readings), worth 10% of the final grade, and due Nov. 5. The major term paper (4000 words, 12 pages), worth 45% of the final grade, will be due by Thurs. noon Dec. 6. (*Comments on major term papers will only be provided if requested in advance of or along with submission.*) Students must also submit a summary (minimum one page; maximum two) of the assigned readings for each class (excluding the reading one is presenting on), each worth 1%, for a total of 10%. The final 15% will be awarded for general class participation. All written submissions must be typed and in 12 scale font, except for the notes of assigned readings, which may be hand-written. (The only acceptable excuses for missed deadlines will be for documented medical reasons or family bereavement/illness; late papers will otherwise be penalized 5% per day.) All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). The instructor reserves the right to require individual students to submit electronic versions of their essays to Turnitin.com.

Laptop Policy

Use of laptop, tablet computers, or smart phones is not permitted during class time.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

READING AND SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Sept. 10) (Orientation)

Week 2 (Sept. 17) (Concepts and Definitions)

"Introduction" (Sargisson, 1-5)

"Definitions, Debates and Conflicts: Utopianism, Anti-utopianism and Anti-Anti-Utopianism" (Sargisson C1, 6-40)

Week 3 (Sept. 24)

Instructor Absence; no class

Week 4 (Oct. 1) (Fundamentalisms)

John Gray, "Utopia Enters the Mainstream," in *Black Mass: How Religion Led the World Into Crisis*, Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2007.

"Religious Fundamentalism" (Sargisson C2, 41-54)

Week 5 (Oct. 8)

Thanksgiving/Reading Week – no class

Week 6 (Oct. 15) (Gender and Sexuality)

"Feminism and Gender" (Sargisson C3, 55-78)

"Sex and Sexual Identity" (Sargisson C4, 79-97)

Week 7 (Oct. 22) (Utopia and Nature)

"Climate Change and Catastrophe Fiction" (Sargisson C5, 98-115)

"Human Attitudes to Nature" (Sargisson C6, 116-128)

Week 8 (Oct. 29) (Intentional Communities)

"Green Intentional Communities" (Sargisson C7, 129-146)

Chris Land, "Flying the Black Flag: Revolt, Revolution and the Social Organization of Piracy in the 'Golden Age'," *Management & Organizational History*, 2(2), 2007: 169-192.

Week 9 (Nov. 5) (Cities and Architecture)

"Fantastic Architecture and the Case of Dubai" (Sargisson C8, 146-66)

"Domestic Architecture: New Urbanism and Cohousing" (Sargisson C9, 167-88)

Week 10 (Nov. 12) (Utopia and Mass Culture)

John O'Neill, "McTopia: Eating Time," in *Utopias and the Millennium*, Krishan Kumar and Stephen Bann (eds.), London: Reaktion Books, 1993, 129-37.

"Computer Gaming" (Sargisson C10, 189-207)

Richard Keller Simon, "Advertising and Utopia," in *Trash Culture: Popular Culture and the Great Tradition*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999, 77-90.

Week 11 (Nov. 19) (Technology and Futurism)

"Introduction: Technology and Ecology as Apocalypse and Utopia" (Fraser, 1-34)

"Cloning, Cyborgs and Robots" (Sargisson C11, 208-38)

Week 12 (Nov. 26) (Possible Futures I)

"Communism: Equality and Abundance" (Fraser, C1, 35-68)

"Rentism: Hierarchy and Scarcity" (Fraser, C2, 69-90)

Week 13 (Dec. 3) (Possible Futures II)

"Socialism" Equality and Scarcity" (Fraser, C3, 91-119)

"Exterminism: Hierarchy and Scarcity" (Fraser, C4, 120-143)

"Conclusion: Transitions and Prospects" (Fraser, 144-50)