WS 305-4: Women and Utopia

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Wednesday: 11:30-3:20

This course explores the concept of utopia and dystopia (literally “no place” and “bad place”) from the perspectives of feminist speculative fiction and feminist theory. We will approach the topic by looking at a series of issues in feminist theory cutting through disciplines of sociology, philosophy, linguistics, science, political science, cultural studies and gender studies. In particular we will address issues such as reproductive technologies, mothering, language, time and difference.

Required readings:
Atwood, Margaret. *Handmaid’s Tale.*
Charnas, Suzy McKee. *Motherlines*
Elgin, Suzette Haden. *Native Tongue*
LeGuin, Ursula. *Dispossessed*

Other required readings will be available either electronically or on Library reserve.

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
15% - participation
25% - seminar presentation
25% - academic book review
35% - research paper

Prerequisites: Six credits in Women’s Studies including WS 101 and/or WS102.

DESIGNATED CREDIT: Students may apply to the English Department to have this course designated for 4 upper division credit hours towards an English Major. Please consult the Undergraduate Advisor in the English Department

**THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.**