

Summer 2015 :: ENGL 5010 (Studies in Fiction)

Controlling Desire:

The "Fiction" of Huxley and Orwell

Days/Times: Tues 10 - 11:15AM & online

Location: OSH 104 & online

Instructor: Adam Halstrom

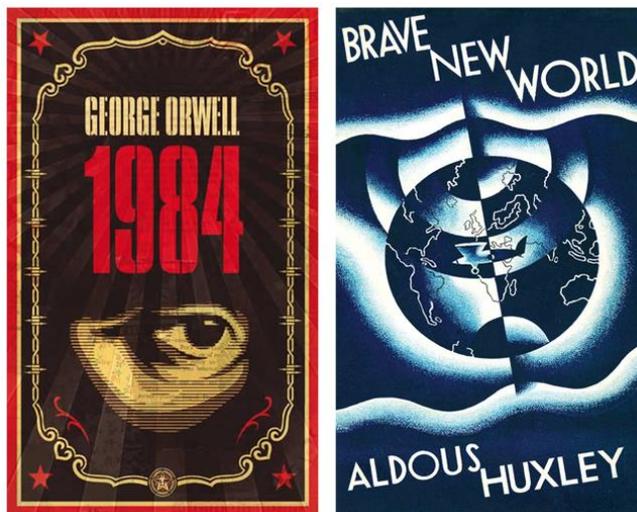
Email Address: adam.halstrom@utah.edu

**Office Hours: Tues 11:15AM – 12PM &
Thurs 10AM – 11AM (or by appointment)**

Office Location: MLIB 1705K ([map](#))

Overview

In this course we will explore the chilling and thrilling dystopian novels *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley, and *1984*, by George Orwell. Although we will likely discover together many interesting and productive ways to approach these texts, our governing theme will be the expression and suppression of desire and the relationship between desire and control. Traditional readings of these two works situate Huxley's world as being controlled through uninhibited free-will and pleasure, and Orwell's through forced ignorance and fear. But neither novel is so simple. We will put pressure on these traditional readings, and with the help of some critical and theoretical sources, examine the complex institutional and social structures that both novels present. And, perhaps, in the process, we will learn a little something about ourselves as well.



Required Texts*

We, Yevgeny Zamyatin (Modern Library, Trans. Natasha Randall; ISBN 978-0812974621)

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley (HarperCollins, ISBN 978-0060776091)

1984, George Orwell (Penguin, ISBN 978-0452284234)

*All other required reading for this course will be posted on Canvas.

General Requirements

Additional information and guidelines for each of the in-class, online, and paper assignments for this course will be posted in Canvas. **If you have any questions about the assignments you are responsible for contacting me three days, that's 72 hours, before the assignment is due.** I expect all of your assignments to be submitted by the due date, so make sure you ask questions early and often to ensure your assignments meet all of the requirements and are turned in on time.

(15%) **Weekly reading assignments and in-class participation.** Participation during in-class discussions is essential to an effective learning environment in my class. I won't quantify your verbal and nonverbal output each class period, but I will track your physical presence or lack thereof. We have twelve (12) class sessions this semester. Since the number of class sessions is limited both by the hybrid nature of the course and by the truncated summer semester, **you will be allowed only one (1) unexcused absence.** Excused absences must be approved by me prior to missing the class session. Due on Tuesdays at 10:00AM MST.

(10%) **One-on-one consultation.** You will meet with me during office hours, or an individually scheduled meeting time, **at least twice** throughout the semester. Please do not take this as a suggestion that more office hour consultations are not welcome: they are! However, I find that unless office hours are part of your graded work for the course, very few students will take advantage of this important and productive learning space. During our first meeting we will discuss your interests and work in the course. The second meeting will primarily be focused on your final paper topic, but we can certainly discuss other things relevant to the course as well. I am available during open office hours for these meetings, and I will post additional meeting times on Canvas if needed. It is your responsibility to come to my open office hours or schedule a different time with me prior to the due date for both meetings. This is an all or nothing grade and should be an easy 10%, split evenly between the two meetings (if you attend one and not the other, you will receive 5%). I expect these meetings will last at least 15 minutes each. The first one-on-one consultation is due by Thursday, July 2nd at 5PM MST; the second is due by Thursday July 30th at 5PM MST.

Online:

(25%) **Weekly online assignments and/or discussion posts.** The details for each online assignment and discussion post will be posted on weekly summary pages in Canvas. You can also access the assignment details from the Assignments, or the Syllabus tab, or the Calendar in Canvas. Unless noted otherwise, due on Thursdays at 11:59PM MST and Sundays at 11:59PM MST for full credit.

A note about late assignments: If your online assignment is submitted past the due date, which is clearly marked on the weekly summary page and on the assignment/discussion page in Canvas,

you will only receive half credit. **No exceptions!** So please plan ahead and make sure your online assignments are submitted on time.

Papers:

(20%) **4-5 page mid-semester paper.** A list of topics will be posted on the weekly summary page, and under Assignments. Due on Sunday, July 5th at 11:59PM MST for full credit.

(30%) **8-10 page final paper.** A list of suggested topics will be posted on the weekly summary page, and under Assignments. You may also choose your own topic, but you *must* discuss it with me or seek written approval. Due on Thursday, August 6th at 11:59PM MST for full credit.

Content Accommodations

Some of the texts, films, or assignments in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

Drop/Withdrawal

To learn more about the University's Drop/Withdrawal Policy, click on the links below.

Drop policy: <http://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/drop.php>

Withdrawal policy: <http://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/withdrawal.php>

Disabilities

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, UNION 162, 801.581.5020 to make arrangements for accommodations. Also see <http://disability.utah.edu>.

Academic Honesty

You should document and be prepared to prove where you get information you use—especially when you write that information into your own assignments. Willfully copying another's work and presenting it as your own constitutes plagiarism, which is an offense I take seriously. If you fail to act responsibly, you will most likely receive a failing grade (E) for the assignment in question, and you will possibly fail the course.

If you have questions about how to avoid specific instances of plagiarism, feel free to ask me. If you have questions about the U's plagiarism policy, please refer to sections II and V of the Student Code.

Writing Resources

I am your primary source for help with writing assignments in this course. You can also take full advantage of the services offered at the University Writing Center. They offer one-on-one assistance with writing, and their tutors can help you understand your writing assignments, work through the writing process, and/or polish your drafts for all the courses in which you are enrolled. Sessions are free of charge, and you can meet as often as you need. To make an appointment, call 801.587.9122. The Writing Center is located on the second floor of the Marriott Library. You can visit their website at <http://writingcenter.utah.edu>.

Canvas

We will use Canvas extensively in this course. If you do not already know what that means, you will soon. Since this is a hybrid course you will be required to **access Canvas several times every week** to, among other things, complete assignments, collaborate with your fellow students, and learn about changes to the course schedule. You may access Canvas using any smartphone, tablet, or computer that connects to the internet, including those in the computer labs at the Marriott Library and across campus. If you believe the technological requirements of this class will be a problem for you, please see me immediately to determine whether or not you will be able to successfully complete the course. Lack of access to Canvas or an inability to complete the assignments and discussion posts will **not** excuse missing assignments. **I will not accept the modern equivalent of “my dog ate my homework” excuses (e.g. I dropped my phone in the ocean—this one will be met with special distaste since I’ll be jealous that you were near an ocean, my toddler spilled apple juice on my laptop, my dog ate my iPad, etc.) for late or incomplete assignments.**

I suggest you compose all written work in your favorite word processor and store it safely on your favorite cloud—or thumb drive, or hard drive, or whatever you use. I will try to remind you of this regularly, but it is your responsibility to save your writing and other work in a safe place. Composing written assignments in Canvas is a risky business as **you will lose everything** if your browser refreshes, or your computer crashes, or your dog eats your iPad before you hit submit.

Above all else, please give yourself enough time to work through technical issues. If you are trying to submit your assignment at 11:58PM MST on the due date and Canvas isn’t working, then your assignment is probably going to be **late**. If you foresee a problem meeting any of the due dates in the course, you must notify me in advance. You may contact the UOnline Help Desk at 801-585-5959 or the Campus Help Desk at 801-581-4000 for technical support.

Canvas Login

<http://cis.utah.edu> > My Classes > ENGL 5010 > Go to This Class

OR

<https://utah.instructure.com/courses/335099/>

Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to, and most likely will, change. This schedule is meant to provide an outline of planned readings for each week this semester. I will update our course schedule in Canvas as needed.

Week 1 (May 18-24)

Introduction to course and materials

Week 2 (May 25-31)

We, Zamyatin

Week 3 (June 1-7)

We, Zamyatin

Week 4 (June 8-14)

Brave New World, Huxley

Week 5 (June 15-21)

Brave New World, Huxley

Week 6 (June 22-28)

Brave New World, Huxley

Week 7 (June 29-July 5)

Utopia, Thomas More (selection on Canvas)

Short Paper due July 5th

Week 8 (July 6-12)

1984, Orwell

Week 9 (July 13-19)

1984, Orwell

1984 (film, rated R, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0087803/>)

Week 10 (July 20-26)

1984, Orwell

Week 11 (July 27-August 2)

1984, Orwell

Week 12 (August 3-9)

Wrap-up

Last class August 4

Final paper due August 6th