English 495-Fall 2017: *British Dystopian Novels*

Dr. Michael Given/Cori Kallenberger (Independent Study)

**Description:**

In this class we will read and discuss several of the most influential and interesting novels in Dystopian Literature. Each of the texts that we will study has varying elements of stylistic and thematic significance, but all will be considered as artifacts of their particular historical era. We will begin with a fundamental review of dystopias and all of our readings and discussions will focus on how these texts reflect that genre. From what particular cultural milieu did these novels develop? How did they emerge? What were the central characteristics of those times, those authors, those works, and what were their most important legacies?

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

Students will
- closely and accurately read complex texts
- comprehend and apply critical theories with relevant interpretation to texts
- demonstrate knowledge of British literary history
- effectively conduct literary research
- write clear, grammatically correct prose

**Texts:**

Hall, *Daughters of the North* ISBN 9780061430367

**Course Requirements:**

We will have regular office conferences (probably 30-40 minutes) to discuss your readings, the summary response that you prepare for each novel, and possible topics for your final essay. These conferences will not be rigidly scheduled, but arranged so as to best fit both of our existing fall semester schedules.

You will write one summary response as you finish each of the novels. These responses will be approximately 4-6 pages, and follow a specific format for which I have attached a handout. These should be completed and discussed in the chronological order of reading, and before you get too far into the next reading.

For the final essay of 8-10 pages, we will discuss and agree on a suitable topic for you to explore. As for scheduling the final essay, you may work at your own speed, as long as you file your summary responses on time (at least one every three weeks).
Grades:

Summary responses ........................................ 20%
Reading discussions ........................................ 20%
Critical Essay ............................................... 60%

WH Grades
Only assigned if course work cannot be completed due to unavoidable circumstances that must be documented for and approved by Dr. Given (with possible review and advice from the Department Chair).

Disabilities:
To obtain related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Definition of academic dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of another into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Presenting someone else’s work as your own is a serious offense and will not be tolerated in the academic community of which you are a member. By this time in your academic career, you should be well acquainted with what constitutes plagiarism. If not, you should review the university policy on plagiarism at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

If you have ANY doubts about whether the idea that you are considering or the language that you are using is “yours” or someone else’s, SEE ME before you turn in your work and we will discuss how best to present it. Unfortunately, there have been several incidents at all undergraduate and graduate levels in which students thought that they could take shortcuts in their work without being caught and/or penalized. They were wrong. Remember—any of the Internet shortcuts available to students are also available to my colleagues and me. Our entire department is very serious about this issue and plagiarism in my class will result in a failing grade.