COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
This course aims to examine the emergence and development of the genre of utopia in early modern England. The course will start by exploring some of the classical precursors of the genre, focusing especially on Plato’s The Republic. We will then concentrate on a wide range of utopian texts produced in England from the sixteenth to the early eighteenth centuries, starting with Thomas More’s Utopia (1516) - a formative text the title of which gave its name to the genre - and finishing with Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels (1726). Our reading will involve the interrogation of a number of issues relating to the genre of utopia in the early modern period, such as: the relations between utopian writing, travel narratives and the broader context of travel and exploration in the early modern world; utopia, history and the extent to which utopian texts may be said to function as critique of dominant ideologies; the questions of social organization, government and law in relation to the concept of the ideal society; the question of population and colonization; utopia, violence and biopolitics; utopia, science, education, and religion; utopia and reformist or radical politics; utopia and questions of gender.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students are expected to be able to demonstrate their familiarity with texts under study and to develop the ability to analyze them within the social, political, and historical context of the early modern period. Further, students are expected to be able to engage critically with the wide range of issues raised by the texts.

TEXTBOOKS

Other primary material and selected secondary material will be made available to students during the course of the semester. Students will also be given a list of secondary material placed on reserve in the library. Further, they are encouraged to explore books on regular loan, as well as journals articles (many of which may be accessed electronically through the library).

ASSESSMENT
Midterm exam (take-home paper): 30%
Final examination (take-home paper): 50%
Presentation and presentation report: 10%
Participation and attendance: 10%
Schedule of readings, lectures, exams and deadlines

Week:

1. Sept.4/7
   Introduction to the course
   Readings:

2. Sept.11/14
   Plato, extracts from The Republic

3. Sept.18/21
   More, Utopia

4. Sept.25/28
   More, Utopia
   Secondary Reading on More's Utopia

5. Oct.2/5
   Francis Bacon, New Atlantis

6. Oct.9
   Francis Bacon, New Atlantis
   Secondary Reading on New Atlantis

    Oct.12
    Gerrard Winstanley, The Law of Freedom in a Platform

7. Oct.16/19
   Gerrard Winstanley, The Law of Freedom in a Platform
Secondary Reading on *The Law of Freedom in a Platform*

**October 19: Deadline to hand in midterm essay**

8. **Oct.23/26**
   Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World*

9. **Oct.30/Nov.2**
   Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World*

**Secondary Reading on *The Blazing World*:**

10. **Nov.6/9**
    Henry Neville, *The Isle of Pines*

11. **Nov.13/16**
    Henry Neville, *The Isle of Pines*

**Secondary Reading on *The Isle of Pines*:**

12. **Nov.20/23**
    Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

13. **Nov.27/30**
    Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

**Secondary Reading on *Gulliver's Travels*:**

**FINAL EXAM PERIOD:** 7-21 December 2018

Please note that this is a tentative schedule which may have to vary slightly based on the needs of the particular class.
CLASS POLICIES

You are required to work systematically so as to keep pace with the material assigned for each session. Your active participation in class discussions is essential, so you need to make sure that you always read the relevant material before coming to class. Systematic failure to come to class prepared or contribute to discussions may have a negative impact on your final grade.

You are expected to attend all classes except in case of illness or any other exceptional circumstances. In that case, you need to inform me. Please keep in mind that missed in-class evaluation cannot be made up unless you present a valid medical certificate or other formal document justifying your absence.

All written work needs to be handed in by the deadline and no extensions will be given except in special circumstances. Assignments or exams handed in late will not be accepted.

Finally, you must come to class on time and always bring your textbook with you.

Academic Dishonesty

Please keep in mind that any form of academic dishonesty (such as cheating in exams or plagiarism) is a very serious offence and will be penalized according to departmental regulations. Students who commit such offences may risk failing the entire course.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s work (language and/or thoughts) as one’s own original work.

All written work – whether produced in class or at home – needs to be the student’s own work. In order to avoid plagiarism, you should always make sure that any sources used in your work (whether copied directly, summarized or paraphrased) are clearly acknowledged. You are expected to be familiar with the MLA citation format and to use that to cite your sources whenever that is required.