



## ACADEMICS

### STV4119B - Political Utopias

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#### Course content

The course offers an introduction to the genre and history of literary utopias and related forms of utopian thinking. The participants are invited to close reading and discussion of some of the most important literary utopias, including a classic dystopia, focusing especially on recent green and feminist utopias. These texts will be read and analysed as manifestations of different political ideologies and alternatives. They will also be studied as expressions of fundamental criticism of their contemporary societies. The purpose of the course is to show how utopian texts can be used as valuable sources of inspiration and relevant contributions to theoretical debate and analysis in the discipline of political science.

#### Learning outcomes

#### Facts about this course:

Credits:	10
Level:	Advanced course at master's level
Teaching semester:	Autumn 2008
Examination semester:	Autumn 2008
Language of instruction:	English
Administrated by:	<a href="#">Department of Political Science</a>

#### Detailed course information -

##### Current and previous semesters:

- [Autumn 2008](#)
- [Autumn 2006](#)
- [Autumn 2003](#)

The course will give you knowledge and understanding of the genre of literary utopias and how this genre, as well as utopian thinking in general, can contribute to political theory and debate. You will acquire a first hand knowledge of some of the most important literary utopias and contemporary contributions to the international utopian scholarship.

### **Skills**

The students shall learn to read, analyse and discuss utopian texts as expressions of political ideologies.

They shall also develop the following skills:

- Be able to formulate relevant and interesting research question on the basis of lectures and existing literature.
- Critically discuss and comment upon their fellow students' paper-outlines.

### **Admission**

Students admitted to other Master programs may also be qualified to apply for the course. Please contact the Department of Political Science.

Only students admitted to the course may take part in instruction and tuition and sit for the examination.

### **Prerequisites**

#### **Formal prerequisites**

Bachelor's degree in Political Science or equivalent.

#### **Recommended prior knowledge**

Bachelor's degree in Political Science or equivalent.

### **Teaching**

There will be given both lectures and seminars. The purpose of the seminars is for the students to discuss their themes, research questions and plans for the course paper. The students are expected to present their course work plan in the seminars, and to prepare critical and constructive comments for their fellow students. It is compulsory participation in seminars and lectures. Lectures and seminars will be given in a periode of 5 weeks.

This course will be taught at the University of Oslo, Blindern campus. Other locations in Oslo may be used. Fronter will normally be used.

The course is part of the regular course offerings at the Faculty of Social Science. Teaching is mainly held during the daytime. Detailed course-information is found on the Webpage for the current semester.

### **Exam information**

The exam consists of a 15-20 pages course paper. The topic of the paper has to be approved by the course conveners in the seminars. In the papers, the students are required to demonstrate their knowledge of the course literature. In addition, they are advised to collect additional literature relevant to their specific topic of interest. The paper is graded on a scale from A-F.

In order to receive a passing grade on the essay, your topic will have to reflect the course readings and curriculum. All chosen topics should be approved by the course instructor before the deadline. An essay topic not reflecting the curriculum, will receive a failing grade( F).

The Faculty of Social Science is responsible for the exam(s), and exam(s) are/is normally held at the University of Oslo, Blindern campus. Other locations in Oslo may be used.

### **Exam resources**

Dictionary, which must be hand in to the Department of Political Science office at least one day before the written exam.

### **Language of examination**

The language of examination is generally Norwegian. You can apply to the [administrators of the course](#) to be given the exam text in English. It is generally possible to submit your response in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

### **Assessment and grading**

Course grades are awarded on a descending scale using alphabetic grades from A to E for passes and F for fail.

Examination results are available in StudentWeb within three weeks after the examination-date, if no other information is given on the Webpage for the current semester.

An external auditor regularly evaluates the academic quality of the course, including the form of exam used on the course.

### **Lodging a formal complaint**

See [here](#) for information about the regulations for justification of examination results and appeals.