

Seminar in Anglo-American Studies V
Fall 2018
Tuesday 5th

Instruction: Andrée Lafontaine (andreelafontaine@icloud.com)

Office hour: Tuesday 4th (A518)

1. Course Description: This seminar explores recent and contemporary works of Political Science Fiction and speculative fiction about power relations.

2. Aim: This course seeks to develop a fuller understanding of how Anglo-American works of film, television and literature have tackled power relations and social anxieties through speculative and science fiction. The semester is divided into four modules: the first looks at precursors to the genre, the second explores LeGuin's class and gender politics, the third tackles the American revival of Canadian author Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and the last concludes on recent developments in Afrofuturism and how *Get Out* (Jordan Peele, 2017) and *Black Panther* (Ryan Coogler, 2018) addressed contemporary race relations.

3. Key words: Canadian Studies, Film, Media, Literature, Culture, Gender, North American Studies

4. Schedule:

- 1) Political themes in Science Fiction; a primer
- 2) Anglo-Saxon precursors
- 3) American politics and paranoia, Manchurian Candidates and Body Snatchers
- 4) Gender and the return to conservative values
- 5) *Stepford Wives* (Bryan Forbes, 1975, 1h55)
- 6) Margaret Atwood's *Handmaid's Tale*
- 7) Critical reception of the *Handmaid's Tale* television series
- 8) Class uprisings
- 9) Ursula LeGuin's *The Dispossessed*
- 10) Anarchy, capitalism and utopianism
- 11) Race and racial violence
- 12) Afrofuturism
- 13) *Get Out* (Jordan Peele, 2017, 1h44)
- 14) *Black Panther* (Ryan Coogler, 2018, 2h)
- 15) Semester Recap

5. Evaluations:

- A. Attendance and class participation: 30%
- B. Conversation leadership: 30%
- C. Final paper: 40%

6. References:

- Ursula LeGuin, *The Dispossessed* (1974). Can be read in English or Japanese.
- "The Handmaid's Tale" (2017). Season 1 available on hulu (happyon.jp) in English with optional Japanese or English subtitles or Japanese dubbed. Alternatively, you can read Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985) in English or Japanese.