Envisioning America Through The Hunger Games
21:525:100
Fall 2022

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Classroom: ENG 301

Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:00am –
11:20am
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Office: ENG 219

Course Description:

Suzanne Collins’ trilogy *The Hunger* provokes conversations about image/representation, cultural perceptions, historical understandings, symbols, cultural norms, nostalgia, fantasy, and our visions of the present and the future. Through this series, we will examine, the many ways and meanings intertwined with how America envisions itself.

This class will be primarily focused on the underlying themes portrayed and avoided in the series and investigate the layered historical and cultural contexts and ideas that are connected to it. At the heart of this course are conversations about the many ways we can examine American culture construction and representation.

Using the series as our guide, we will set out to explore questions about displacement, inequality, entertainment and pleasure, violence, power, changing notions of gender and sexuality, revolution and rebellion, humanity, propaganda, and freedom. American culture is a collection of ideas. Ideas that are a multifaceted, malleable, and constantly changing. This series will act as a vehicle to engage with these ideas, what influenced their evolution, and how when put together, they form a vision of America.

Readings:

All readings will be posted on Canvas.

You are required to read EVERYTHING that is listed on the schedule BEFORE you attend class.

Movies are available on Rutgers Library Quick Search and Rutgers’ Swank account.
Grading and Assignments:

The percentage breakdown for the course will be as follows:

- Assignment #1: 2 Page Paper 10%
- Assignment #2: 2-3 Page Paper 15%
- Assignment #3: 2-4 Page Paper 20%
- Assignment #4: Group Work/Presentation 20%
- Final Paper: 3-4 Page Paper 20%
- Class Participation: 15%

*All papers need to be submitted via email (ltroiano11@gmail.com) BEFORE the start of class on the day it is due.

Class Participation and Attendance:

Attending class is not optional. Class lectures not only include discussions on your assigned readings, but the material presented is what you will be writing about. In-class participation is essential to this discussion driven course. I know it is going to be weird via Zoom, but let’s please try out best together.

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Cheating

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University’s educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/

COVID CONCERNS

In case of an emergency TALK TO ME. We have a team in place to help. These times are unprecedented. Even if it does not seem like it should be my problem, please make it my problem.
All students are required to sign the Rutgers Academic Integrity Pledge and the Rutgers Honor Pledge on all assignments. “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment.

Semester Schedule

September 7: Introductions

The Series Readings:
- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
- Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins
- Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins
- The Ballad Of Songbirds And Snakes by Suzanne Collins

*Finish trilogy by October

September 12: Greek Myths

September 14: Roman Influences, Gladiators, and Spartacus

September 19: Appalachia: Myth and Reality

September 21: Appalachia: Coal Miners

Assignment #1 Due

September 26: The Guard Tower: From Plantations to Angola

September 28: Imperialism

October 3: Drafts and The Lottery
October 5: Utopia/Dystopia

October 10: Reality TV:

October 12: Reading Day: **Finish the Trilogy!**

October 17: Story Arcs

**Assignment #2 Due**

October 19: Violence and Childhood

October 24: Race and Rue

October 26: Gender: The Heroine

October 31: Gender: The Love Story

November 2: Fashion and Design

November 7: Music & Soundtracks

November 9: Just/Unjust War

November 14: Movie Day – **No Synchronous Class**

November 19: Symbols

**Assignment #3 Due**
November 21 and 23: No Class – Happy Thanksgiving

November 28: The Ballad Of Songbirds And Snakes: Nature vs. Nurture

November 30: Group Work in Class

December 5: Group Presentations

December 7: Group Presentations

December 12: Group Presentations

December 14: Last Day - Wrap-Up

December 19: Final Paper Due

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities**: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.
• Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations: Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

• Counseling Services: Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/.

• Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries: Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.

• Students Who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

• Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run vpva@rutgers.edu.

Learning Resources:

• Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
  Room 140, Bradley Hall
  (973) 353-5608
  https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center

• Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
  Room 126, Conklin Hall
  (973) 353-5847
  nwc@rutgers.edu
  https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center