

COURSE SYLLABUS FORM

American University of Beirut Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Department: Civilization Sequence Program
Course Number and Title: CS 207B Utopian Thought I

1. Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the students will have grown in their ability to:

- Recognize and describe the theoretical frame of 'utopian studies'.
- Read, appreciate and discuss primary texts.
- Develop rapid reading skills.
- Analyse images and their real and rhetorical deployment trying to situate them within the history of ideas and in their human-social milieu.
- Prepare, organize and present resumes and short papers.

2. Resources Available to Students

- Langdon, S.H.: *The Mythology of All Races*, vol. 5. Boston, 1931.
- Homer: *The Odyssey*, tr. Richmond Lattimore. New York, 1990.
- Hesiod: *Works and Days*, tr. Richmond Lattimore. Michigan, 1959.
- Plutarch: *Parallel Lives*, tr. B. Perrin. London, 1914.
- Plato: *The Collected Dialogues* (Timaeus; The Republic), ed. Edith Hamilton & Huntington Cairns. Princeton 1996.
- St. Augustine: *On the Two Cities*. Selections from the City of God, ed. F.W. Strothmann. New York, 1966.
- Al-Farabi: *Al-Farabi on the Perfect State*. Text with an introduction, translation and commentary by Richard Walzer. Oxford, 1985.
- Thomas More: *Utopia*, ed. David Harris Sacks. Boston & New York, 1999.
- Francis Bacon: *New Atlantis*, ed. Alfred B. Gough. Oxford, 1928.

3. Grading Criteria

- Two quizzes/exercises = 25% each:
 - a. first quiz: group work (essay)
 - b. second quiz: i. Definitions; ii. essay
- A final = 40%:
 - a. first part: group work (essay) = 20%
 - b. subjective = 20%
 - c. essay = 60%
- Participation in class; exposés, & preparing handouts = 10%

4. Schedule

A. Idea & Theory

1. Week

Th. More & the coining of a name; Sumerian to Greek; the City Beyond; Social.

B. Readings

2. -7. Week

From the Sumerians to the Greeks

° The Sumerian hero Enmerkas

- Langdon, *Semitic Mythology*, 190-202.

° Elysian Field & Greek Utopia

- Homer, *The Odyssey*, B IV, L. 540-70.

- Hesiod, *Works and Days*, 30-39.

- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives*, Lycurgus (pp. 205-303 = 279-287) & Solon (pp. 405-99; 453, 483)

- Plato, I. *Timaeus*, pp. 1158-59, § 24-25; *Critias*, pp. 1218-23, § 113-119 (The Collected Dialogues of Plato, ed. Edith Hamilton & Huntington Cairns, Princeton, New Jersey: Bollingen Series LXXI, Princeton University Press, ¹³1996, ¹1961); II. *The Republic*, § 368-376; 412-427; 449-467a; 473-476b (1- The Republic, tr. Desmond Lee, 2nd ed., Penguin 1987, pp. 56-69; 118-38; 166-93; 202-209; 2-, in The Collected Dialogues, pp. 614-23; 565-69; 730-706; 712-15).

8. -9. Week

° the City Beyond

- St. Augustine. *On the Two Cities*.

10. 14. Week

° Social Vision

10. - 11. Week

- Al-Farabi, *On the Perfect State*, chapters 15-19.

12. - 13. Week

- Thomas More, *Utopia*, 23-27, 59-114 .

14. week

- Francis Bacon, *New Atlantis*.

5. Course Policy

- Read university catalogue, pp. 115-119.

- Attendance is obligatory

- 6 absences are allowed without excuse

- Assignments should be read during the weekend before coming to the class-discussions

- Students *should be prepared* for discussions/dialogue in class!

- 'Handouts' will be available on the Reserve Shelf prepared by the instructor & yourselves