

Authority and Rebellion Seminar 2024-2025

Students entering Authority and Rebellion will read **ONE** (or more!!) of the following for summer reading. The first semester of this class will be a focused study in dystopian literature, while the second semester will explore the ways in which rebellious women in literature challenge stereotypes and existing power structures.



Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. (1986). Anchor Books, 1998. (ISBN 9780385490818)
Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. (1951). Simon and Schuster, 2012. (ISBN 9781451673319)
Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*. (1932). Harper Perennial, 2006. (ISBN 9780060850524)

Dystopia: A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.

Characteristics of a Dystopian Society:

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens, and information, thought, and freedom are restricted.
- Citizens of the society worship a figurehead or concept.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens live in fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.

Feminist Literary Theory examines and questions the roles of women in literature in an attempt to understand or reorganize the power dynamics for men and women in our own society

Annotation is highly recommended since we will discuss and write about your summer reading in class in the first week of school. As you read your novel, think about the questions below:

- Who holds the power in the novel?
- What roles are women assigned in the novel?
- Where do you recognize the characteristics of a dystopia in the novel?
- What criticism does the author make about his or her present-day society?

Please contact Mrs. Hogate ahogate@episcopalcollegiate.org if you have any questions.