

ENGLISH 3402-D608: Topics in Literature

- Need to fulfill requirements to graduate?
 - Pathways Individual & Society? ✓
 - Writing Intensive? ✓✓
 - Capstone Course? ✓✓✓
- Register NOW on CUNYfirst! ALL majors welcome!

Paradise, Perfection,
Anarchy, & Apocalypse:

the world-building of
utopias & dystopias

Professor Jill Belli Spring 2017 Tu/Th 4:00-5:15pm



The world now, more than ever, needs utopianism, or the desire for better ways of living, the belief in possibility, and the commitment to transform our circumstances and produce alternatives to the present. This course explores the blurry line between utopias and dystopias (perfection gone awry) historically and in our contemporary moment through literature, films, critical theory, music, reality TV, new media, social media, and our own experiences.

We'll consider race (e.g., Afrofuturism, Black Lives Matter), sexuality, class, religion, globalization, and the environment. We will also pay particular attention to the current political climate (especially America in the Trump era), social movements (e.g., Occupy Wall Street), and our local context (spaces/places) of NYC, including art exhibitions, community gardens, activism/organizing/protests, and pockets of utopia within our urban landscape (e.g., *The Lowline* in the Lower East Side).