

<b>Veranstalter</b> .....	<b>PD Dr. Monika Pietrzak-Franger</b>
<b>Thema</b> .....	<b>Utopian Literature 1516-2016</b> [ENG-6, ENG-6a, AA-V3a, AA-V3b, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA6, AA-W, AA-WB]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b> .....	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b> .....	<b>53-545</b>
<b>Zeit</b> .....	<b>Di 10-12</b>
<b>Raum</b> .....	<b>Ü35-01054</b>
<b>Beginn</b> .....	<b>16.10.17</b>

### **Course Description:**

“A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth glancing at”– this contention, attributed to Oscar Wilde, addresses the extensive socio-political potential of utopian worlds. Utopia – the ‘non-place’ or ‘good place’ that is always already concomitant with dystopia (the ‘bad place’) – is an imaginary site that comments on contemporary world and offers a vision of a distant (geographically, temporarily), alternative social structure. And indeed, utopian fiction has often been used not only to imagine possible future worlds or to compare existing conditions of a given society to some imaginary one. In many cases, it has been used to address and criticize existing conditions of inequality. Racial, ethical, economic, ecological, and sexual problems are the most often addressed ones in such fiction.

In this seminar, and with particular attention to those structures of inequality, students will become acquainted with a selection of utopian novels spanning the last five hundred years. Although the emphasis will be on Victorian fiction, we will explore the issues that were of importance already in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and continue to be pertinent today. Students will look, among others, at such works as: William Henry Hudson’s *A Crystal Age* (1887), Elizabeth Corbett’s *New Amazonia* (1889), Samuel Butler’s *Erewhon* (1872) and Anthony Trollope’s, *The Fixed Period* (1882). Due to the wide temporal scope, students will attend to the body-technology-society/environment triad and its centrality in the various versions of imagined utopian worlds.

**Please download and read this work before the beginning of the semester:**

Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516) <https://archive.org/details/sirthomasmoresut00moreuoft>

**The list of novels and secondary reading will be provided during the first session.**