
Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Winter 2021	ART-HIST 369 / ITAL 377	TR 12:30-1:50	Zorach & Torlasco
Course Title			Degree/Distro Fulfillment
Special Topics in 20 th and 21 st Century Art: Feminist Utopias and Dystopias in Art, Literature, and Film			Post-1800



How can we imagine modes of life that oppose social injustice and the tangle of race, gender, and class hierarchies that sustains it? What would a world that radically promotes or even realizes justice look like? This course will investigate the ways in which feminist writers, artists, and filmmakers have imagined a future that does not resemble the past, reinventing for us the very texture of daily life. Among the themes we will explore are the relation between architecture, urban planning, and various forms of surveillance/control; the relation between work and life, with a focus on domestic labor and the struggles of the 1970s international feminist movement; and the relation

between the demands of the community and personal freedom. While concentrating on 20th and 21st century, we will draw our cases from literature and speculative science fiction (Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* and Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*) and a variety of media practices: film (Lizzie Borden's *Born in Flames* and Elizabeth Tadic's *Umoja: No Men Allowed*), installation art and architecture (WomanHouse and feminist architectural theorists) performance and video art (Martha Rosler's *Semiotics in the Kitchen* and Beyoncé's *Lemonade*), and TV series (Jane Campion's *Top of the Lake* and the recent *The Handmaid's Tale*).

Required Textbooks

All readings will be available as PDFs except Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland and Selected Stories* (Signet Classics, 978-0451525628); Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (Grand Central Publishing, 978-1538732182); Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (Anchor, 978-1784870966) Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies* (Penguin Classics, 978-0140446890)

Assessments

Class participation, short writing assignments, final research and/or creative project.