

IP206: Utopia

Assessment 2: 15-20 minute group presentation (25%)

“Build your own utopia”

Due Term 3, Week 1 (submission by 12 noon)

You are asked to prepare and deliver a group presentation which imagines what a better (ideal?) society might look like.

- As world-building is such a vast activity, you are asked to **identify and explore one major problem**. As social systems are interconnected you may well touch on other problems - but your focus should be limited to one particular issue.
- Your response should both be **archaeological** and **architectural**; i.e. you should explore and evaluate what has been said, done and thought about the problem in the past, and offer your own ideas about how to build a better future.
- Your response should be research-informed and should draw on creative or non-creative texts (written, oral or visual), theory or utopian thought, and/or prefigurative practices. You may wish to draw on other secondary scholarship.
- All group members should contribute to the preparation and delivery of the presentation.

Tips

- Consider the originary society that you are responding to. Britain and/or the West more generally does not need to be the starting point for this thought exercise. You may identify a problem that has global or particular regional/local ramifications.
- You do not need to focus on the problem that you think is the “most important.” You may, of course, choose to – but you also might want to focus on a problem that has personal significance for you, or one that you think will be particularly interesting to explore.
- You may respond to one of the topics covered in class but be sure to develop your argument beyond classroom discussion. You may alternatively identify a different problem; e.g. connected to gender, work and employment, technology and/or transhumanism, space, family, living arrangements, borders and resources, etc.
- You won’t be able to cover everything about your problem in 15-20 minutes. Don’t try to! Find a “hook” to hang your presentation on that allows you to develop a focused, nuanced and critical response.
- Make a progressive and coherent argument; if you split the presentation into sections, make sure that individual contributions build on each other to reach a coherent conclusion.

- Think about the research that you will deploy. Will you draw on primary sources, creative or otherwise? Will you use any prefigurative practices as examples or case studies?
- Think about the visuals that you will use. Would it be useful for your audience to see any images? To give any quotations? Would you like to show any clips or play any music?
- If you are working individually on separate PowerPoint slides please ensure that the slide deck has a consistent aesthetic, text font, etc.
- You may find the journal *Utopian Studies* a useful starting point.
- You may, if you wish, draw on ideas that you have begun to tease out in your reading responses. However, you cannot repeat material across assessments so if you intend to write on the same problem or sources in your research project, you must make sure that your discussion covers new ground. If you are in this situation you are advised to discuss the matter with me.

Your presentation will be marked according to Liberal Arts grade descriptors and the University's 20-point mark scale: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/currentstudents/studenthandbook/assessments#marking-criteria>.

The mark sheet that will be used is given on Moodle. You are advised to read it carefully before planning your presentation.

I cannot listen to trial runs or read draft plans, but I am available for consultation. You are very welcome to discuss your ideas about the focus and content of your presentation in an office hour.

If your work fails to exhibit any aspect of proper academic practice, then, irrespective of content, it will not be awarded as high a mark as it might potentially have achieved had best-practice been followed.

If you are in doubt about any aspect of good academic practice, you should, in the first instance, consult the [University guidance on academic integrity](#) and the [Liberal Arts Undergraduate Handbook](#). You may also contact your personal tutor or the Director of Student Experience.

UPDATE:

Due to the ongoing pandemic you will no longer be delivering your presentations in class. You are asked instead to record and submit your presentation.

Groups:

- A) Thea, Eden, Sonia,
- B) Vaishnavi, Ben, Tireni
- C) Tori, Ethan, Abbi, Antoine
- D) Anna, Cat, Kristin, Georgia
- E) Maddy, Celia, Alezandra, Kornelia
- F) Flo, Tia, Cathy, Yeukai

You may choose to record and deliver your presentation in one of the following ways:

- Use voice or video narration over PowerPoint slides. The main advantage of this method is that you can re-record individual slides without having to start from the beginning. The disadvantage is that file sizes can get quite large, particularly with video narration.
- Use a collaborative Google slide show with audio narration. Some students find it easier to work with Google, but be aware that you have to record the audio file separately. If you choose to submit in this way you MUST make sure that you have shared and given me permission to view the slideshow before the deadline.
- Set up and record a meeting on Microsoft Teams. This is possibly the easiest/least time consuming in terms of being closest to the experience of delivering a presentation in class, but you have to do it all in one take. If you make a mistake and need to re-record you'll need to start from the beginning. If you want some advice about using Teams for presentations I'm happy to share what I've learnt this year. Alternatively, Kevin Stratvert is some kind of Teams guru: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfJT_eYDTmDE-ovKaxVE1ig.
- If you would prefer to use a different method of recording your presentation, please run it by me first.

Only one person need submit the presentation from your group, but remember that if they submit late every member of the group will be penalised. You may either upload your presentation to Tabula (either as a file or as a document with a link), or share it via Files.Warwick (suitable for sharing large files).

Everyone who is not uploading their presentation to Tabula must upload a simple document stating a) who is in your group; b) how the presentation is being shared with me; and c) who is sharing it. (i.e. so the system recognises that you've submitted something)

You are advised to record your presentation well in advance of the deadline to allow for any technological difficulties.
