This course explores a selection of major books of world literature from 1945 to the present. Dystopian literature has been a cultural staple since the end of World War II and seems especially prominent today. What do dystopian narratives tell us about the specific places and periods from which they emerge? What fears, anxieties, and hopes do they articulate? What makes a text dystopian and how have these qualities changed over time? How do dystopian scenarios comment on or illuminate our current moment? Through brief lectures and class discussions, we will try to understand the cultural and historical background to the texts, define the evolving concept of “dystopia” and explore its relevance to our present culture and sensibility. Please note that this course is reading and writing intensive and fulfills the university composition requirement.

GE (New) / GE 3:
Arts & Humanities, Visual Literacy, World Cultures, and Writing Experience.