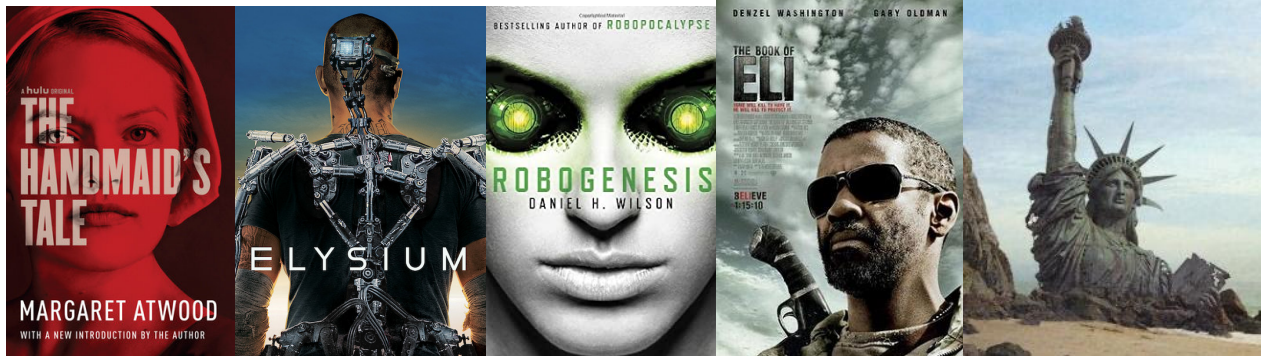


AMST 3950 (HYBRID COURSE): D & H CREDIT

AMERICA'S DYSTOPIAN FUTURES

Spring 2021 (Thurs 1:40 pm-4:20 pm)

Dr. David Gray



For decades, writers, artists, and filmmakers have produced dystopian visions of the American future. From environmental collapse to oppressive theocracies and zombie apocalypses, nightmare futures have long been part of the American imaginary. But why have particular dystopian ideas materialized at specific moments? What societal realities did they respond to? And why do they continue to have such a powerful hold over our imaginations? To examine these questions we will read two dystopian novels, a study of the effects of climate change, and a selection of short stories. In addition to these readings, you will analyze several films. By exploring dystopian narratives over time, you will discover the deeper meaning and significance of these nightmare visions. Finally, we must reckon with a pressing question: *Are we living in dystopian times?*

Required texts: Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*; Daniel H. Wilson, *Robogenesis*; David Wallace-Wells, *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*; and a selection of short stories and other readings on Canvas.

For more information e-mail Dr. David Gray at david.gray11@okstate.edu