The Politics of the Future, 1880-2080

Paper Organiser:
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Other teachers:
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Outline of the Course

Brief Description

At least since Plato, thinkers in the western tradition have sought to imagine better worlds. The most famous texts in this genre include Plato’s Republic and Thomas More’s Utopia, the latter of which gave this style of thinking a name. This course explores the modern utopian tradition, which originates in the late nineteenth century, as the implications of Darwinian science were put into dialogue with emerging models of capitalism and radical new transport and communications technologies. The conjunction of events, processes, and new imaginative possibilities, spawned a revolution in thinking about the future. “The Politics of the Future” examines accounts of the future – both utopian and dystopian – produced in Britain and North America from the 1880s to the present. It focuses in particular on the impact that new technologies had on shaping the human imagination, ranging from visions of future war through to the transformation of traditional conceptions of gender and race. It finishes with discussion of post-human worlds. The course combines speculative literature, political theory, and intellectual history.

Aims and Objectives

● To provide a broad overview of debates about utopia and dystopia from the late nineteenth century to the present
● To encourage critical reflection on the relationship between speculative literature and political thinking
● To elucidate the complex connections between historical context and the production of political thought and fiction
● To offer intellectual resources for thinking about a wide range of topics in contemporary politics

By the end of the course, students should have a good understanding of both the theory and the recent history of utopian political thinking.

Structure of the Paper

The course proceeds in a broadly chronological fashion. It is divided into 3 historical periods: 1890-1925; 1925-1975; 1975-the present. The readings and lectures for each period focus (though
not exhaustively) on a general theme. Section I traces the intellectual and imaginative impact of Darwinism on visions of future societies. Section II focuses on attempts to make sense of totalitarianism. Finally, Section II explores how new developments in computing and biotechnology have shaped thinking about the future.

**Teaching & Examination**

The course will be taught by a combination of lectures and seminars. There will be 16 lectures, running through Michaelmas and Lent terms. Each lecture is accompanied by a detailed handout, which will be uploaded to Moodle. The lectures will set the context for the development of speculative thinking during the long twentieth century, and introduce some of the key themes and primary texts.

Students will also take 4 seminars during the course, two in Michaelmas, and two in Lent. The seminars allow us to explore the texts in more detail and to discuss issues arising from the lectures. Students are encouraged to come prepared with at least one question to ask. The first seminar will focus on the meaning of utopia; the other three will correspond to the three historical periods covered by the course.

The course will be examined by two 5,000 word essays, one due in early Lent, the other in Easter. The first essay will cover material from Section I (including the general discussion on the nature of utopianism). The second essay will allow students to choose a topic from either Section II or Section III. During the course students will have 4 supervisions, two each in Michaelmas and Lent. For the first supervision in each term, students will write a 2000 word essay selected from a menu of options. For the second supervision each term, students will prepare an outline of their long essay for discussion/feedback.

The deadline for the submission of your first essay is noon on Monday, 23rd January 2023. The deadline for your second essay is noon on Tuesday, 2nd May 2023. (The deadline falls on a Tuesday in Lent Term in order to avoid the May Day Bank Holiday.) For formatting/style guidance, please refer to the Pol 5 course outline.

**Lecture List**

Introductory Lecture: Thinking the Future

1880-1925

2. Dreamworlds: The Age of Utopia
3. Human Natures: Darwinism and its Legacies
4. Socialist Futures: Bellamy contra Morris
5. Social Science Fiction: Mr H. G. Wells Discovers the Future
6. Boundaries of Utopia: Empire, Race, Gender

1925-1975

7. Mapping Totalitarianism: Huxley and Orwell
8. The Strange Death of Utopia?
9. The Space Race and Nuclear Annihilation
10. The Social Sciences of the Future
11. Earth is the Only Alien Planet: Towards Inner Space
1975-Future(s)

12. Feminist Utopianisms
13. Ecocide and the Population Bomb
14. Welcome to the Machine: Cyberpunk and Beyond
15. Dissolving Capitalist Realism: Reclaiming the Future
16. Machines of Loving Grace: Artificial Intelligence and the End(s) of Humanity

Seminar List

The Meanings of Utopia
Darwinism & Socialism
Totalitarianism & Consumer Society
The Posthuman Condition

Questions

Supervision Questions

1. Does dystopianism lead inevitably to political fatalism?

2. How should we distinguish between utopias and dystopias?

3. How did Malthusian anxieties shape socialist utopias before the First World War?

4. Should Sutton E. Griggs’s *Imperium in Imperio* be read as a justification of armed resistance against white supremacy in the United States?

5. What explains the burst of transhumanist writing in the 1920s and 1930s?

6. Do either George Orwell or Aldous Huxley offer a credible account of “totalitarian” politics?

7. Does Cold War futurology tell us more about the Cold War than about the future?

8. Does Judith Shklar deserve her reputation as an anti-utopian “Cold War liberal”?

9. Did feminist writers of the 1970s succeed in rethinking the utopian tradition?

10. Was J. G. Ballard right to call science fiction the “only true literature of the twentieth century”?

11. Should robots have rights?

12. Are we currently living in a dystopia?

Essay 1 (Michaelmas)
1. Should political realists always reject utopianism?

2. What explains the success of Edward Bellamy’s *Looking Backward: 2000-1887*?

3. Was H. G. Wells an imperialist?

4. Did the pre-1914 “invasion literature” offer an accurate guide to the future of war?

5. Was eugenics a utopian project?

6. What was the relationship between Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Herland* and her writings on evolution and political economy?

**Essay 2 (Lent)**

1. Is Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* a utopia or a dystopia?

2. Why was neo-Malthusianism so popular in the 1950s and 1960s?

3. Is Kim Stanley Robinson correct to suggest that cyberpunk is politically conservative?

4. What role does history play in Afrofuturism?

5. Are posthumanism and transhumanism incompatible?

6. Is “longtermism” a convincing way of thinking about the obligations that we owe to others?

**Reading List**

The reading list for the course is broken into several sections. It opens with a selection of texts that are relevant for the whole course. This material, which is divided into *set texts* and *further reading*, will be useful for making sense of debates over the meaning of utopia and its political entailments, as well as providing useful background information about the development of theories of utopianism and the literary genre.

There are separate reading lists for each of the three historical periods. This material is broken down into four types of reading:

*Set primary texts.* These are all works of fiction. You should aim to read all of them by the end of the course.

*Contextual primary texts.* This is non-fictional material written during the period that will help to contextualise debates over the politics of the future. You are not expected to read all of this material, though some it is will be very useful for researching the long essays.
Set secondary texts. This is material that you should aim to read by the end of the course.

Further reading. I have provided a fairly extensive list of books and articles that will allow you to explore particular topics in depth. Again, some of this material will be very useful for researching the essays.

In addition, at the end of this course guide I have listed a (non-exhaustive!) list of films and documentaries that address, or are useful for thinking about, different aspects of the course.

**Thinking the Future**

**Set Reading**

- *Dystopia: A Natural History* (2016)


**Further Reading**

**General**


Kumar, Krishan, *Utopia and Anti-Utopia in Modern Times* (1987)


Manuel, Frank and Fritzie Manuel, *Utopian Thought in the Western World* (1979) [a comprehensive historical overview]


Parrinder, Patrick, *Utopian Literature and Science: From the Scientific Revolution to Brave New World and Beyond* (2015)


*Science Fiction Futures*


Canavan, Gerry, and Erik Carl Link (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction* (2018)

Jameson, Frederic, *Archaeologies of the Future: The Desire Called Utopia and Other Science Fictions* (2005), esp. ch. 1

Latham, Rob (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Science Fiction* (2014)


*Social Science Meets Speculative Literature*

Carpenter, Charli, “Rethinking the Political/Science/Fiction Nexus: Global Policy-Making and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots,” *Perspectives on Politics* (2016)


Hassler, Donald and Clyde Wilcox (eds.), *Political Science Fiction* (1997)


Matarese, Susan, *American Foreign Policy and the Utopian Imagination* (2010)


*Section I: 1880-1925*
Set primary texts

Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward* (1888)
William Morris, *News From Nowhere* (1890)
H. G. Wells, *A Modern Utopia* (1905)
Sutton E. Griggs, *Imperium in Imperio* (1899)
Charlotte Gilmore Perkins, *Herland* (1915)
W. E. B. DuBois “The Comet” (1920)

Contextual primary texts

Friedrich Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* (1880)
Edward Bellamy, “Why I Wrote ‘Looking Backward’” (1890)
D. G. Ritchie, *Darwinism and Politics* (1889)
T. H. Huxley, “Evolution and Ethics” (1893)
H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (1895)
William Morris, “How I Became a Socialist” (1896)
-- & Ernest Belfort Bax *Socialism: Its Growth and Prospects* (1896), esp. chs 14-21
H. G. Wells, *Anticipations* (1901)
-- “The Discovery of the Future” (1903)
Francis Galton, “Eugenics: Its Definition, Scope, and Aims” (1904)
G. K. Chesterton, *The Napoleon of Notting Hill* (1904)
H. G. Wells, “Empire of the Ants” (1905)
Vernon Lee, “On Modern Utopias” (1906)
H. G. Wells, “The So-Called Science of Sociology” (1907), repr. in *An Englishman Looks at the World* (1914)
William James, “The Moral Equivalent of War” (1910)
J. B. S. Haldane, *Daedalus; or, Science and the Future* (1923)
Bertrand Russell, *Icarus, or the Future of Science* (1924)

Set secondary texts

Claeys, Gregory, *Dystopia: A Natural History* (2017), ch. 5
Robertson, Michael, The Last Utopians: Four Late Nineteenth Century Visionaries and their Legacy (2018)
Seed, David, “‘The Course of Empire: A Survey of the Imperial Theme in Early Anglophone Science Fiction,” Science Fiction Studies (2010)
Shepard, W. Andrew, “Afrofuturism in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries” in Gerry Canavan and Erik Carl Link (ed.), The Cambridge History of Science Fiction (2018)

Further reading

General Accounts

Bell, Duncan, Dreamworlds of Race: Empire and the Utopian Destiny of Anglo-America (2020)
Roemer, Kenneth, The Obsolete Necessity: America in Utopian Writings, 1888-1900 (1976)
Saler, Michael, As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Pre-History of Virtual Reality (2012)

Studies of Individual Thinkers

Coleman, Finne, Sutton E. Griggs and the Struggle Against White Supremacy (2007)
Deese, R. S., *We are Amphibians: Julian and Aldous Huxley on the Future of Our Species* (2014)

Dronamraju, Krishna (ed.), *Haldane’s Daedalus Revisited* (1995)


*Gender, Race, Empire*


Bell, Duncan, *Reordering the World* (2016), chs. 2, 4


Hayden, Wendy, “Feminist Thought” in Claeys (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth Century Thought*

Kerslake, Patricia, *Science Fiction and Empire* (2010)

Makdisi, Saree, “Race and Empire in the Nineteenth Century” in Claeys (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth Century Thought*


Rieder, John, *Colonialism and the Emergence of Science Fiction* (2008)

Sharp, Patrick B., *Darwinian Feminism and Early Science Fiction: Angels, Amazons, and Women* (2018)


*Science and Technology*


Crook, Paul, *Darwinism, War and History: The Debate over the Biology of War from the “Origins of Species” to the First World War* (1994)


Future Wars

Franklin, H. Bruce, *War Stars: The Superweapon and the American Imagination* (2008), ch. 1

Section II: 1925-1975

Set primary texts

J. D. Bernal, *The World, the Flesh and the Devil* (1929)
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (1932)
George Orwell, *1984* (1949)

Contextual primary texts

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* (1929)
Winston Churchill, “50 Years Hence” (1931)
Aldous Huxley, “Boundaries of Utopia” (1931)
Bertrand Russell, *The Scientific Outlook* (1931)
Virginia Woolf, *Three Guineas* (1938)
Murray Constantine [Katherine Burdekin] *Swastika Night* (1939)
H. G. Wells, “Utopias” (1939)
E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations* (1939)
George Orwell, “Wells, Hitler and the World State” (1941)

- “The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius” (1941)
Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (1945), ch. 2: “The Great Utopia”
Albert Einstein, “Towards a World Government” (1946)
Hans Morgenthau, *Scientific Man and Power Politics* (1946)
Northrop Frye, “Varieties of Literary Utopia” (1965)
Karl Popper, “Utopia and Violence” (1948)
Alan Turning, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” (1950)
Isaac Asimov, “Social Science Fiction” (1953)
B. F. Skinner, “Freedom and the Control of Man” (1955)
David Woodbury, “Here is the Utopian Promise of the Peacetime Atom,” *Look*, (1955)
Judith Shklar, *After Utopia* (1957)
Margaret Mead, “Towards More Vivid Utopias” (1957)
Julian Huxley, “Transhumanism” (1957)
Michael Young, *The Rise of the Meritocracy* (1958)
J. L. Talmon, “Utopianism and Politics” (1959)
Julian Huxley, “The Future of Man” (1959)
Hannah Arendt, *Between Past and Future* (1961)
Lewis Mumford, “Utopia, the City and the Machine” (1965)
Judith Shklar, “The Political Theory of Utopia: From Melancholy to Nostalgia” (1965)
Susan Sontag, “The Imagination of Disaster” (1965)
John Maynard Smith, “Eugenics and Utopia” (1965)
Daniel Bell, “The Study of the Future” (1966)
Valerie Solanas, SCUM Manifesto (1967)
Michel Foucault, “Of Other Spaces” (1967)
Herbert Marcuse, “The End of Utopia” (1967)
Joanna Russ, “The Image of Women in Science Fiction” (1971)
Club of Rome, *The Limits to Growth* (1972)
Ursula K. Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (1973)

**Set Secondary texts**


- *Dystopia: A Natural History* (2016), chs. 3-7


**Further Reading**

**General Accounts**

Bell, Duncan, & Joel Isaac (eds.), *Uncertain Empire: American History and the Idea of the Cold War* (2012)
Canavan and Link (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction*, Part II [on the “New Wave”]
Seed, David, *American Science Fiction and the Cold War Literature and Film* (1999)

**Individual Thinkers**

Aprahamian, Francis and Brenda Swann (eds.), *J. D. Bernal: A Life in Science and Politics* (2017)
Greenberg, Jonathan & Nathan Waddell (eds.), *Brave New World: Contexts and Legacies* (2016)
Mendlesohn, Farah (ed.), *On Joanna Russ* (2009)
Russ, Joanna, *To Write Like a Woman: Essays on Feminism and Science Fiction* (1995)
Stock, Adam, *Modern Dystopian Fiction and Political Thought: Narratives of World Politics* (2019) [chapters on Forster, Huxley, and Orwell]
Teslenko, Tatiana, *Feminist Utopian Novels of the 1970s: Joanna Russ and Dorothy Bryant* (2005)
Taylor, Mark, “Aldous Huxley’s Late Turn to Bergson and Island as Bergsonian Utopia,” *Utopian Studies* (2018)
Waddell, Nathan (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteen Eighty-Four* (2020)
(Social) Sciences of the Future / Population Anxiety

Andersson, Jenny & Egle Rindzeviciute (ed.), The Struggle for the Long-Term in Transnational Science and Politics (2015), esp. chs. 1, 2 & 4

Space Race/Atom Bomb

Bellamy, Brent Ryan, “...Or Bust: Science Fiction and the Bomb, 1945-60” in Canavan and Link (eds.), The Cambridge History of Science Fiction
Deudney, Daniel, Dark Skies: Space Expansionism, Planetary Geopolitics, and the Ends of Humanity (2020)
Mahar, Neil, Apollo in the Age of Aquarius (2017)
Munster, Rens van & Casper Sylvest, Nuclear Realism: Global Political Thought during the Thermonuclear Revolution (2016)
Poole, Robert, Earthrise: How Man First Saw the Earth (2008)
Tribbe, Matthew, No Requiem for the Space Age: The Apollo Moon Landings and American Culture (2014)

Gender & Race

Ahmad, Dohra, Landscapes of Hope: Anti-Colonial Utopianism in America (2009), Pts II-III
Getachew, Adom, Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination (2019)
Williams, Paul, Race, Ethnicity, and Nuclear War: Representations of Nuclear Weapons and Post-Apocalyptic Worlds (2011)
Yaszek, Lisa, Galactic Suburbia: Recovering Women’s Science Fiction (2008)
Section III: 1975-

Set primary texts

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1986)
Malka Older, *Infomocracy* (2016)

Contextual primary texts

“Combahee River Collective Statement” (1977)
Raymond Williams, “Utopia and Science Fiction” (1978)
Joanna Russ, “Recent Feminist Utopias” (1981)
Frederic Jameson, “Progress versus Utopia; or, Can we Imagine the Future?” (1982)
Donna Haraway, “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century” (1985)
Ed Regis, *Great Mambo Chicken and the Transhuman Condition* (1990)
Samuel Delany, “Racism and Science Fiction” (2000)
Ray Kurzweil, *The Singularity is Near* (2005)
Nick Bostrum, “Why I Want to be a Posthuman When I Grow Up” (2008)
- “A Letter from Utopia” (2010)
Margaret Atwood, “The Road to Usotopia,” *Guardian* (2011)
Various, “Transhumanist Declaration” (2012)
Alex Williams & Nick Srnicek, “Manifesto for an Accelerationist Politics” (2013)

Set Secondary Texts
Botting, Eileen Hunt, *Artificial Life After Frankenstein* (2020)
Claeys, Gregory, *Dystopia: A Natural History* (2016), ch. 8 & Conclusion
Davidson, Joe & Filipe Carreira de Silva, “Fear of a Black Planet: Climate Apocalypse, Anthropocene Futures and Black Social Thought,” *European Journal of Social Theory* (2021)
https://aeon.co/essays/true-ai-is-both-logically-possible-and-utterly-implausible
Taillandier, Apolline, “‘Staring into the Singularity’ and Other Posthuman Tales: Transhumanist Stories of Future Change,” *History & Theory* (2021)
Thaler, Mathias, *No Other Planet: Utopian Visions for a Climate-Changes World* (2022)

**Further Reading**

**General Accounts**

Gray, Chris Hables, “‘There Will Be War!’: Future War Fantasies and Militaristic Science Fiction in the 1980s,” *Science Fiction Studies* (1994)

McFarlane, Anne, Graham J. Murphy and Lars Schmeink (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture* (2020)


**Individual Thinkers**

Atwood, Margaret, *In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination* (2011)

Canavan, Gerry, *Octavia E. Butler* (2016)


Gibson, William, *Distrust that Particular Flavor* (2012)


Miller, Gerald Alva, *Understanding William Gibson* (2016)


McCaffery, Larry (ed.), *Storming the Reality Studio: A Casebook of Cyberpunk and Postmodern Science Fiction* (1991) [For Gibson]

Neuman, Shirley, “Just a Backlash’: Margaret Atwood, Feminism, and The Handmaid’s Tale,” *University of Toronto Quarterly* (2006)


**Radical Futures**


Frase, Peter, *Four Futures: Life After Capitalism* (2016)
Fraser, Nancy, *Fortunes of Feminism: From State-Managed Crisis to Neoliberal Crisis* (2013)
Johnson, Gaye Theresa, and Alex Lubin (eds.), *Futures of Black Radicalism* (2017)

**Environmental Futures**

Chakrabarty, Dipesh, *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age* (2021)
Claeys, Gregory, *Utopianism for a Dying Planet: Life After Consumerism* (2022)
Gabrielson, Teena, Cheryl Hall, John M. Meyer, and David Schlosberg (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory* (2016)
Mann, Jeff, and Joel Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of Our Planetary Future* (2017)

**Gender & Race**

“An Oral History of the First Cyberfeminists”:
Hollinger, Veronica, “Strangers to Ourselves: Gender and Sexuality in Recent Science Fiction” in Canavan and Link (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction*
- “Contemporary Science Fiction and Afrofuturism” in Canavan and Link (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction*
Yaszek, Lisa, “Feminism” in Rob Latham (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Science Fiction*

*Transhumanism/Artificial Intelligence / Posthumanism*

Bostrum, Nick, “A History of Transhumanist Thought”
Cave, Stephen, Kanta Dihal, Sarah Dillon (eds.), *AI Narratives: A History of Imaginative Thinking about Intelligent Machines* (2020)
MacAskill, William, *What We Owe to the Future* (2022) [“longtermism”]
Milburn, Colin, “Posthumanism” in Rob Latham (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Science Fiction*
Setia, Kieran, “The New Moral Mathematics” [on *What We Owe to the Future*], *Boston Review* (April 2022)
Films, Documentaries, and Podcasts

Film

The following films – of varying quality! – all address themes discussed in the course. Some are classics, others are obscure, and the list is obviously non-exhaustive. The 10 that I have underlined give a good cross-section.

Part I: 1880-1925

*A Trip to the Moon* (1902)
*The Airship Destroyer* (1909) [available on Youtube]
*The Last Man on Earth* (1924)

Part II: 1925-1975

*Metropolis* (1927)
*High Treason* (1929)
*Just Imagine* (1930)
*The Invisible Man* (1933)
*Things to Come* (1936)
[Written by H. G. Wells]
*Destination Moon* (1950)
*The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951)
*The War of the Worlds* (1953)
*It Came from Outer Space* (1953)
*Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956)
1984 (1956)
*On the Beach* (1959)
*The Time Machine* (1960)
*The Day the Earth Caught Fire* (1961)
*La Jetee* (1962)
*Dr Strangelove* (1964)
*Alphaville* (1965)
*Fahrenheit 451* (1966)
*2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968)
*Planet of the Apes* (1968)
*THX1138* (1971)
*A Clockwork Orange* (1971)
*Slaughterhouse Five* (1972)
*Silent Running* (1972)
*Solaris* (1972)
*Soylent Green* (1973)
*Westworld* (1973)
*Space is the Place* (1974)

Part III: 1975-

*Logan’s Run* (1976)
*Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977)
*Alien* (1979)
*Mad Max* (1979)
*Brave New World* (1980)
*Escape from New York* (1981)
*Blade Runner* (1982)
*Tron* (1982)
*Videodrome* (1983)
*Threads* (1984)
*Brazil* (1985)
*The Running Man* (1987)
*RoboCop* (1987)
*Total Recall* (1990)
*Naked Lunch* (1991)
*12 Monkeys* (1995)
*Crash* (1996)
*Gattaca* (1997)
*The Matrix* (1999)
*AI* (2001)
*Children of Men* (2006)
*Sleep Dealer* (2008)
*District 9* (2009)
*Her* (2013)
*Snowpiercer* (2013)
*Ex Machina* (2015)
*Blade Runner 2049* (2017)
*Black Panther* (2018)
*Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse* (2018)
*First Man* (2018)
Documentaries, Podcasts & Online lectures

“Utopian Horizons” – each episode discusses an author and/or text, including several covered in this course. (I did the episode on George Griffith, The Angel of the Revolution) https://soundcloud.com/user-494053335

The “Nice Try” podcast discusses a series of utopian experiments/projects (including Herland, Oneida, and Biosphere 2): https://www.curbed.com/2019/5/7/18514684/nice-try-podcast-utopian-avery-trufelman

Some brief extracts from Eileen Hunt Botting’s course on political science fiction (with a focus on pandemics): https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaxhxJcBFwOnZpehSRIz5LA


A series of 5 programmes on feminist utopias (including Herland) https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0003409/episodes/player

The BBC future proofing series – 30+ episodes about possible futures https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/33g0cvzTr5fTr8PwM313vQ7/what-is-futureproofing

“New Thinking: Science Fiction” – an episode with a literary critic and an architect discussing the topic: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p086zq4g

“In our Time: Wells’s Time Machine” https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009bmf

“In our Time: Brave New World”: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00jn8bc

“In our Time: Modernist Utopias” : https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9fz

“In our Time: William Morris”: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b9w0vq

“Kraftwerk: Pop Art” – on musical futurism: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b050rbzb

“Journeys in Afrofuturism”: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b7dlfy

BBC documentary on J. G. Ballard https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL52DA5ACDFB26D184

Future Shock (1972)
Cyberpunk (1990)
The Last Angel of History (1996) – on Afrofuturism
Apollo 11 (2019)