

UTOPIA AND DYSTOPIA IN THE HISTORY OF THE CITY: A JOURNEY
IN SEARCH OF THE GOOD LIFE

Sheldon Rothblatt

PART I: WINTER 2020

NOTE ON READINGS: The readings are available in libraries, in print (any edition) or on-line at Kindle or Apple. The readings from Addison and Steele and Virginia Woolf will be posted on the Fromm site for this course. Herb Caen's columns can also be found in a variety of formats. Any edition of *The New Yorker* past and present will serve for "The Talk of the Town.")

Because two meetings fall on Mondays that are holidays, there will be a total of seven sessions, each from 1 to about 3 p.m, the last being held during the make-up week.

WEEK ONE: Introductory Remarks on the History of Utopia. Read Aristophanes, *The Birds*.

WEEK TWO: Lecture on Plato and Plutarch, *Life of Lycurgus*. Read Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*.

WEEK THREE: Lecture on Thomas Campanella, *The City of Sun*. Read Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* or Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*.

WEEK FOUR: Lecture on H. G. Wells and other utopians. Read one half of Marge Percy, *The Woman on the Edge of Time*. Alternative Reading: Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*, or Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*.

WEEK FIVE: Lecture on Women and Utopia. Read second half of Marge Piercy or other authors.

WEEK SIX: Lecture on the garden and suburb as Utopia. Read the *Book of Genesis*, the story of Adam and Eve, and George and Weedon Grossmith, *The Diary of a Nobody*.

WEEK SEVEN: Lecture on how the modern city is imagined or idealized– the *flâneur* and *flâneuse*. Read excerpts from Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele, *The Tatler* and *The Spectator*; Herb Caen, *Baghdad-by-the-Bay*; Virginia Woolf, *Street Haunting and Other Essays*; *The New Yorker*, "The Talk of the Town."