**The University of Tunis**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tunis**

**Subject : Feminist Science Fiction Writing**

**Level : Third Year English**

**Instructor : Dr. K.Arif**

**Course Description :**

This course is designed to third year students with the intention to familiarize them with the tradition of feminist science fiction writing, which raised incredulty towards the male classical utopias written ever since the publication of Thomas More’s *Utopia* onwards. Owing its genesis to Mary Shelley’s masterpiece *Frankenstein*, feminist science fiction did make wide incursions into the field of feminism and its gender related issues by countering the very foundations and relics of both classical utopianim and male-powered science fiction works which condemned and reduced women to a relegated status in terms of body, space and ideologoy. Dating back to the early days of the nineteenth century, feminist science fiction writing has become a counter and revisionist/critical reading of myths and structures perpetuated by a Phallocentric culture grounded in status quo along with its diverse forms.

To further shine the light on the evolvement of the feminist science fiction canon, the course will provide students with a background to the history and origins of science fiction writing, its intersection and association with feminism and utopia as well. Thus, the choice of Ursula K. Le Guin and Charlotte Perkins Gilman will help students to explore the science fiction tradition, its nurturing ideology, agenda, discourse, and narrative and aesthetic elements.

The scope of this course is to focus on two divergent approaches to reflect on what a utopian female community should be like. Both novels into question map two distinct utopian discourses, one that is integrationist while the other is separatist.

**Key Words :** Science Fiction, Utopia, Feminism, Anthropology, Mythmaking, Androgyny and Motherhood

**Material :**

*1-The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K.Le Guin

*2-Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman