H237. Morality and Law in Utopia

Professor Tim Lemper

This course explores the relationship between morality and the law in utopian visions of society. It is designed to help students develop their own utopian vision of society, including the proper role of morality and law and the proper relationship between the individual and the community.

The primary focus of the course is an examination of the Constitution as a moral vision for a utopian society. Additional examples of utopian society are drawn from fictional works and from utopian communities in the U.S., including the Harmonist and Owenite communities in New Harmony, Indiana.

Readings include U.S. Supreme Court opinions on battleground issues in America’s “culture war,” as well as background materials on morality, cultural theory and ideology, political theory, and the intellectual and philosophical roots of the U.S. Constitution.