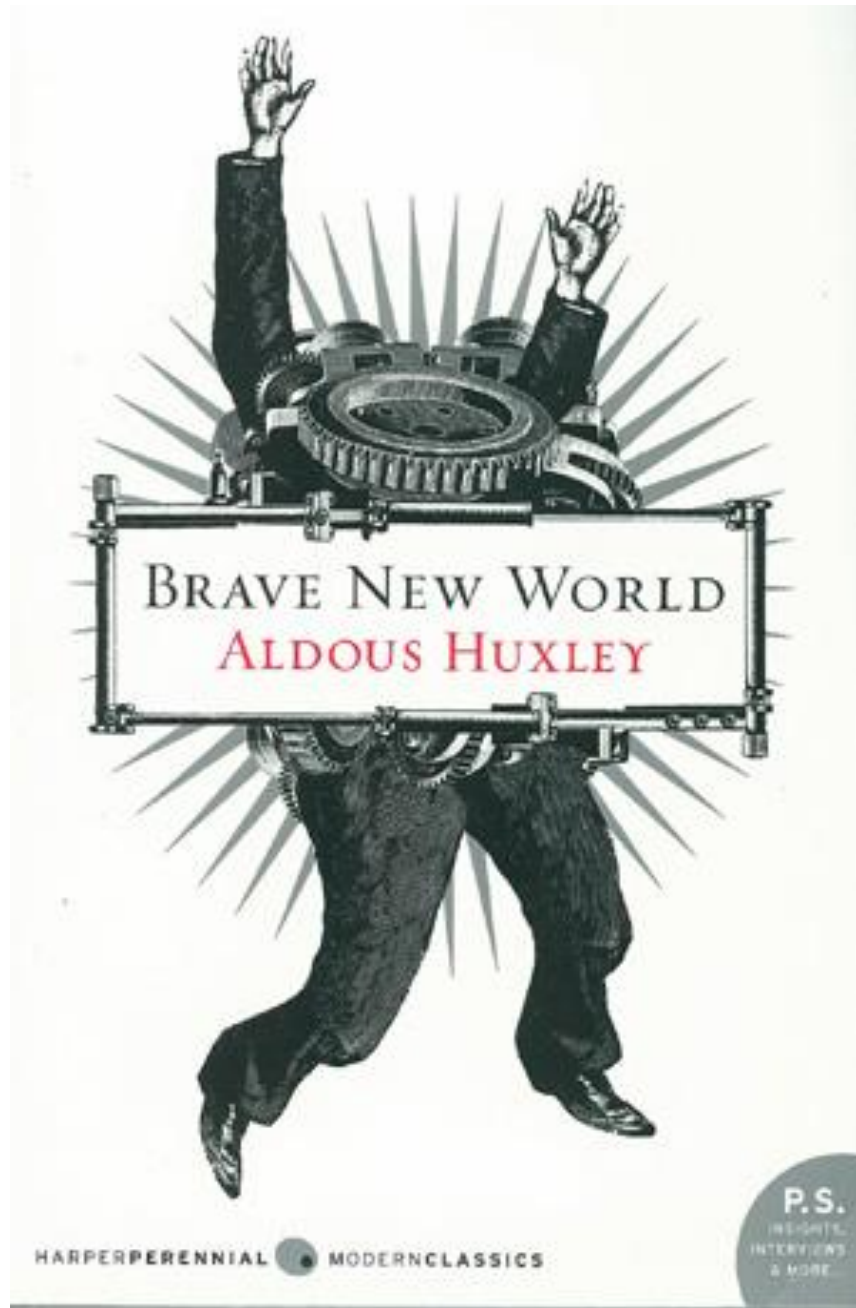


BRAVE NEW WORLD



Sophomore Seminar Summer Reading

CSAS 2018

The summer reading assignment for Sophomore Seminar will be Aldous Huxley's timeless classic *Brave New World*. Written in 1931 and published the following year, *Brave New World* is a dystopic novel about a world that contains endless distraction but little soul. In it, the author questions the values of 1931 London, using satire and irony to portray a futuristic world in which many of the contemporary trends in British and American society have been taken to extremes. Though he was already a best-selling author, Huxley achieved international acclaim with this now classic novel. Because *Brave New World* is a novel of ideas, the characters and plot are secondary, even simplistic. The novel is best appreciated as an ironic commentary on contemporary values.

The story is set in a London six hundred years in the future. People all around the world are part of a totalitarian state, free from war, hatred, poverty, disease, and pain. They enjoy leisure time, material wealth, and physical pleasures. However, in order to maintain such a smoothly running society, the ten people in charge of the world, the Controllers, eliminate most forms of freedom and twist around many traditionally held human values. Standardization and progress are valued above all else. These Controllers create human beings in factories, using technology to make ninety-six people from the same fertilized egg and to condition them for their future lives. Children are raised together and subjected to mind control through sleep teaching to further condition them. As adults, people are content to fulfill their destinies as part of five social classes, from the intelligent Alphas, who run the factories, to the mentally challenged Epsilons, who do the most menial jobs. All spend their free time indulging in harmless and mindless entertainment and sports activities. When the Savage, a man from the uncontrolled area of the world (an Indian reservation in New Mexico) comes to London, he questions the society and ultimately has to choose between conformity and death. As we read, we question what it means to be human...

BEFORE YOU READ BRAVE NEW WORLD...

Consider the following Key Questions:

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN? WHAT IS “HUMAN”?
2. WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE HAVE TO SACRIFICE TO ACHIEVE HARMONY WITH OTHERS?
3. WHAT WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO HELP ACHIEVE HARMONY?

Directions:

1. Before reading Brave New World, in the “Before” column, respond to each statement by putting a plus sign (+) if you agree with it, a minus sign (-) if you disagree, and a question mark (?) if you are unsure of your belief.
2. For one of the statements below, respond on the lines provided as the “Before” response as to why you agree or disagree with that statement.
3. After you read Brave New World, in the “After” column, respond again to each statement. Then, journal in the “After” section to a statement where your belief changed since reading the book. If you have not changed your mind on any statements, journal on a different statement than you did in the “Before” section.

<u>BEFORE</u>	<u>STATEMENT</u>	<u>AFTER</u>
1. ____	Genetically engineered human babies are a sign of progress.	1. ____
2. ____	Every person belongs to every other person on earth.	2. ____
3. ____	Knowledge of history is bunk and unneeded.	3. ____
4. ____	A world without any pain and suffering is ideal.	4. ____
5. ____	Organized religion is a positive social factor.	5. ____
6. ____	There should be separate classes of people (high, middle, low).	6. ____
7. ____	It is necessary to conform to your society.	7. ____
8. ____	Rituals are an important part of becoming an adult.	8. ____
9. ____	Emotions get in the way of human progress.	9. ____
10. ____	The future of the world is better than the present in every way.	10. ____

BEFORE YOU READ BRAVE NEW WORLD...

Before Reading, Statement Response. Response to # ____

After Reading, Statement Response. Response to # ____

DURING YOUR READING OF BRAVE NEW WORLD...

Find examples of things that you find Fascinating, Interesting, and things you take issue with (dislike or disagree with). Write down the page number, a brief quote focused on this idea or event, then write a personal response (why does this fascinate, intrigue, anger, or confuse you?) **DO NOT SUMMARIZE! Don't just write down questions about the book.** Don't limit yourself to brief responses! Be full and reflective in your responses. Try to write down multiple items per chapter. One or two items will do, but more is always better! You can respond to: the story, a character, a character's actions, the setting, an event in the plot, the writing style, an idea that the book presents, or ANYTHING you find interesting, don't just choose stuff to put in the boxes, make this an AUTHENTIC response to your reading! Try using the following sentence starters:

- I was fascinated by...
- I disagree with...
- I agree with...
- This angers me because...
- I am confused by...
- This interested me because...
- I really enjoyed reading about...
- I like how...

Chapter 1		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 2		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 3		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 4		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 5		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 6		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 7		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 8		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 9		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 10		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 11		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 12		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 13		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 14		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 15		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 16		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 17		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

Chapter 18		
Page #	Quote	Personal Response

AFTER YOUR READING OF BRAVE NEW WORLD...

Consider the Key Questions below, then list what you think humans should have to sacrifice to achieve peace and harmony in the world in the left-hand column and what you would be willing to sacrifice for the good of world harmony in the right-hand column. Finally, form a conclusion and write a paragraph below with your ideas about humanity...

<p>What humans should sacrifice...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><u>Key Questions:</u></p> <p>What do humans have to sacrifice to achieve harmony?</p> <p>What would you be willing to sacrifice to help society achieve harmony?</p> <p>↓</p> <p><u>Conclusion:</u></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>What I would be willing to sacrifice...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
--	--	--

In order to achieve harmony, everyone should sacrifice _____

because _____

I would be willing to sacrifice _____