

Chloe Kim, Patric Sanchez, Kevin Wong

Dr. Marchisotto

CAT 3

30 April 2023

### Project Starstruck

For our project, we'd like to explore complex and engrossing themes of a dystopian society, especially in the context of socio economic problems like privacy and classism. Specifically, we'd like to understand and research about how these themes and topics affect a "normal" person in this society, inherently revealing problems that come up when discussing a dystopia. In this project, we'd like to potentially explore a space-themed society, where people all across the world travel to different planets and face problems both common to us right now, and fundamentally specific to space. For instance, although the broader themes will inevitably be connected to our current society, there will also be subsets of problems that would only occur in space, like paying for oxygen, perhaps space pirates, and other dystopian problems that we may not have even thought about.

To begin, we'd like to reveal socio economic problems that would prevail in such a dystopian society. Of course, a dystopian society is the opposite of perfect; there are many injustices and sufferings that would occur, but the problem that we imagine will be the most important and apparent would be classism; with injustices that pertain to a newly imagined class structure where the rich rule and the poor can barely survive, this topic is one we plan to examine in depth. Although many others have done a similar topic to this, we think that by creating a flawed society that tries to hide these blemishes, these ideologies will only be more and more

apparent. Specifically, speculative fiction and sci-fi novels like *Dune* and *The Expanse* have explored problems like these, but in a dramatic fashion that forces readers to be at the edge of their seat permanently. In our interpretation, we hope to make it humorous and relatable, with characters that shine and make the same decisions that any of us would make if we were placed in those futures.

Moreover, we plan to examine various methods dystopian societies employ and use to create the discrimination among classes and establish total control over ‘normal’ citizens’ privacy. In order to comprehend how these instruments are utilized to uphold the status quo and prevent any uprising or resistance from the oppressed classes, we will examine the employment of surveillance and monitoring technology, as well as propaganda and censorship. We will also look at the psychological effects of living in a dystopian society, including how constant concern about being monitored can impair people’s behavior and mental health. With the help of this study, we hope to learn more about how dystopian societies function and affect individuals.

Additionally, it is important to be able to put into perspective the cultural context that our project presents through a textual medium. Although the setting of this dystopian society will be entirely speculative, we propose conveying to the audience the social significance of our story. We plan on extrapolating current research and trends in order to examine the origins of the socio-economic problems apparent in dystopias. For example, if the economic struggle between classes we see today continues to exist, just how much of a problem will this create assuming society plays out as such. A part of the goal with our project is to be able to display to the audience in an implicit manner that in some way, shape, or form, this dystopian society is a possible reality, but by still doing so in an entertaining and enjoyable manner.

## GROUP CONTRACT

Group Members: Kevin Wong, Patric Sanchez, Chloe Kim

TA name: Ana Andrade

Section: A16

[Kevin Wong] will be responsible for:

The creativity and implementation of the project. Drafting out storylines and understanding what the group project could be. Examining the implications of a dystopian society on problems that we currently have and how those problems may be exasperated in the future.

[Chloe Kim] will be responsible for:

Establishing and implying a historical and contemporary context for the project topic, while underlining the potential dangers posed by modern/future technologies and their implications for government surveillance. Examining the methods dystopian regimes employ to control societies and shape social structures.

[Patric Sanchez] will be responsible for:

Evaluating and understanding the cultural and social significance that our project poses. Researching the necessary background information to see through the ways in which a dystopia is formed and established. Extrapolating real life instances of socio-economic problems existing today and interpreting them in order to maintain a level of accuracy to our speculative setting.

By signing below we agree that this distribution of work is equal and that we will each fulfill our individual responsibilities.

<u>Kevin Wong</u>	<u>04/27/2023</u>
[name of 1st group member]	Date

<u>Chloe Kim</u>	<u>04/27/2023</u>
[name of 2nd group member]	Date

<u>Patric Sanchez</u>	<u>04/27/2023</u>
[name of 3rd group member]	Date