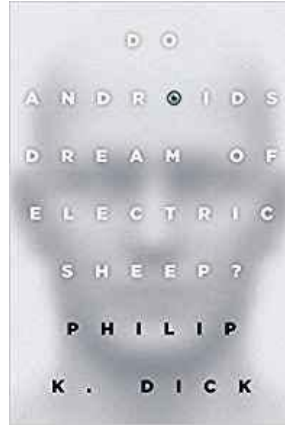


Dystopian Literature: Summer Reading Assignment

“Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted.”
—Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*



Welcome to Dystopian Literature! We will read a number of novels this semester focusing on society and the human experience through comparison with hypothetical worlds similar to our own. The novel you will read over the summer will be a fun/required introduction to the genre, with lots of sci-fi elements and some big-picture ethical questions thrown in. It's called *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick. It is perhaps better known as the inspiration for the film *Blade Runner*, but there are MANY differences. We will watch the film in the fall (I encourage you to hold off), and we will be writing on this novel when we begin class in the fall.

As you read, please **annotate** for features as characterization, conflicts, imagery, recurring motifs or themes, symbols, structural elements that intrigue you (flashbacks, repeated phrases or terms, etc.).

Assignment

After reading the novel, please create a Google Document that addresses a few questions in one paragraph each:

1. What are the roles of labels and euphemism in the novel? By this I mean names of categories of things and I mean words that take the place of other words, respectively. Think “replicant” and “retire” in particular, but there are others.
2. Choose one important human concern (e.g. empathy, love, etc.) that is address by contrasting them with a parallel in the novel. What is revealed by the contrast?
3. Despite the futuristic sci-fi elements, what does this novel have to say about our world today? What significant connection do you most clearly see, and why is it important in your mind?