

LITERATURE

An Introduction to Science Fiction

- I. CRITICAL READING 15%
 - A. Purpose and Main Idea
 - B. Structure
 - C. Restatement of Information
 - D. Genres and their Characteristics
 - E. Language and Tone
 - F. Grammar and Syntax
 - G. Vocabulary in Context
 - H. Diction

- II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE SCIENCE FICTION GENRE 5%
 - A. Science and Fiction to Science Fiction
 - B. *Frankenstein*, *The Chemical Wedding*, *Symzonia*, and Debates about the First Science-Fiction Novel
 - C. Science and Nineteenth-Century American Literature
 - D. Pulp Magazines and the Golden Age of Science Fiction
 - E. Changing Technology: Radio, Film, and Television
 - F. Cold War Tensions and the Race for Technological Supremacy
 - G. New Voices, New Visions: The New Wave
 - H. The Emergence of Cyberpunk
 - I. Steampunk
 - J. Science Fiction in the Twenty-First Century
 - 1. Solarpunk
 - 2. New Delivery Technologies, Inclusivity, and Internationalism
 - 3. Ongoing Debates on Defining the Genre

- III. URSULA K. LE GUIN AND *THE LATHE OF HEAVEN* (1971) 50%
 - A. Concerns about Artificial Intelligence
 - B. Technology Anxiety: From Prometheus to Frankenstein
 - C. Technology as a Double-Edged Sword
 - D. *The Lathe of Heaven* and the Theme of Technology and Humanity
 - 1. Overview of *The Lathe of Heaven*
 - 2. Haber and Orr, Doctor and Patient
 - 3. The Augmentor
 - 4. The Aldebaranians
 - 5. Lelache, Orr, and the Unintended Consequences of Dreams
 - 6. The Trope of the Infernal Machine
 - 7. The Contrasting Characters of Orr and Haber
 - 8. Activity versus Passivity
 - E. The Biographical Context of *The Lathe of Heaven*: Ursula K. Le Guin's Life
 - 1. Le Guin's Parents

2. Le Guin's Parents and Ishi
3. Le Guin's Upbringing
4. Le Guin's Adult Life
5. Le Guin's Writing
6. Le Guin's Influence and Critical Reception
- F. Historical Context of *The Lathe of Heaven*: From the Atomic Bomb to Artificial Intelligence
 1. Le Guin's Work and Feminism
 2. Moral Issues of the Cold War Era
 3. Concerns about Ecological Catastrophe
- G. *The Lathe of Heaven*: Cast of Characters
 1. George Orr
 2. Dr. William Haber
 3. Heather Lelache
 4. Mannie Ahrens
 5. Tiua'k Ennbe Ennbe
 6. E'nememen Asfah
- H. Themes of *The Lathe of Heaven*
 1. Shifting Versions of Reality
 2. Philosophical Viewpoints
 3. The Enduring Problem of Warfare
 4. Issues of Racism, Immigration, and Xenophobia
 5. The Power of Love and Friendship
 6. Patterns of Dominance and Control
 7. Setting
 - a. Oregon and the Ring of Fire
 - b. Sea Imagery
 - c. Mount Hood
 - d. Climate Change
 - e. "Self Is Universe"
- I. The Role of Psychology in *The Lathe of Heaven*
 1. Dr. William Dement and the AASM
 2. Sigmund Freud, Psychoanalysis, and the Interpretation of Dreams
 3. Carl Gustav Jung
 4. Dreams and *The Lathe of Heaven*
- J. The Role of Philosophy in *The Lathe of Heaven*
 1. Le Guin's Epigraphs and Taoism
 2. Western Philosophy and Haber's Utilitarianism
- K. The Publication History and Media Afterlife of *The Lathe of Heaven*

IV. SHORTER SELECTIONS 30%

- A. SELECTED WORK: NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S "RAPPACCINI'S DAUGHTER" (1844)
 1. Nathaniel Hawthorne: Biography
 2. Analysis of "Rappaccini's Daughter": Botany and Biology as Technology
- B. SELECTED WORK: AMBROSE BIERCE'S "MOXON'S MASTER" (1899)
 1. Ambrose Bierce: Biography

2. Analysis of “Moxon’s Master”: Man vs. Machine
- C. SELECTED WORK: RAY BRADBURY’S “I SING THE BODY ELECTRIC!” (1969)
 1. Ray Bradbury: Biography
 2. Analysis of Ray Bradbury’s “I Sing the Body Electric!”: Technological Mothering
- D. SELECTED WORK: OCTAVIA E. BUTLER’S “CHILDFINDER” (1970; PUBLISHED IN 2014)
 1. Octavia E. Butler: Biography
 2. Analysis of Octavia E. Butler’s “Childfinder”: Telepathic Communication as Technology
- E. SELECTED WORK: JOHN CROWLEY’S “SNOW” (1985)
 1. John Crowley: Biography
 2. Analysis of John Crowley’s “Snow”: Memory and Technology
- F. SELECTED WORK: C.L. MOORE’S “NO WOMAN BORN” (1944)
 1. C.L. Moore: Biography
 2. Analysis of C.L. Moore’s “No Woman Born”: The Promise of Prosthetics
- G. SELECTED WORK: NEIL GAIMAN’S “THE MUSHROOM HUNTERS” (2017)
 1. Neil Gaiman: Biography
 2. Analysis of “The Mushroom Hunters”: Knowledge as Technology
- H. SELECTED WORK: SARAH HOWE’S “RELATIVITY” (2015)
 1. Sarah Howe: Biography
 2. Analysis of “Relativity”: Scientific Theory and Poetry