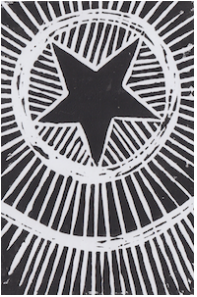


ENG 3060J | Section 107
Feminist Science Fiction:
 Spring 2018 | Ohio University | Edmond Y. Chang

ENG 3060J
 Section 107
 CN 6535
 MW 4:10-5:30 PM
 Tupper 202
 Spring 2018
 Ohio University
 Dr. Edmond Y.
 Chang



“I was attracted to science fiction because it was so wide open. I was able to do anything and there were no walls to hem you in and there was no human condition that you were stopped from examining.”
 —Octavia Butler

ACCORDING TO author and linguist Suzette Haden Elgin, “SF is the only genre of literature in which it’s possible for a writer to explore the question of what this world would be like if you could get rid of [X], where [X] is filled in with any of the multitude of real world facts that constrain and oppress women.” Extending Elgin’s definition, our course will engage feminist speculative and science fiction as political and vernacular theory, as strategies for thinking critically about the past, present, and future in order to imagine “what this world would be like” under different conditions and configurations of gender, race, sexuality, ability, and other formations. In other words, how might we read, think, write about, create, and build alternative worlds, alternative possibilities? We will focus on the literature and papers of Ursula K. Le Guin, James Tiptree, Jr., Octavia Butler, Larissa Lai, and Nnedi Okorafor.

A REQUIREMENT for this class is a well-developed curiosity about the world, about the culture we live in, and about the cultural productions we imagine, produce, and consume. In other words, this class is about reading, critiquing, and analyzing our culture through different literatures and texts. We will engage different practices enjoying and analyzing literature and other media, as well as develop literary, feminist, and queer strategies, habits, and perspectives of reading, thinking, and writing. Foremost, we will read and research with pleasure and for pleasure. We will also close read for analysis. And lastly, we will read and deploy literature as theory, as dramatizing the concerns, wonders, struggles, and politics of lived life and experience.

SPECIFICALLY, our course goals include (the formal junior composition outcomes are in bold, see the course Blackboard for a full listing of the outcomes):

- **We will write for specific purposes, audiences and situations.** To that end, we will develop and demonstrate a familiarity with a range of texts, terms, and theories of the study of feminist speculative and science fiction.
- **We will read a variety of texts and genres.** We will identify and articulate different ways to explore, close read, analyze, and critique literature and other texts.
- **We will research a variety of academic databases using appropriate and effective strategies.** We will explore of a range of research tools and resources, and we will find and evaluate sources appropriate to our reading, writing, and study.
- We will consider questions and intersections of race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, nation, culture, and power.
- We will use science fiction and popular culture as vernacular theory to think, talk, write, and interrogate the world around us.

WE WILL spend the semester asking and addressing difficult, challenging, and sometimes discomfoting ideas, questions, and topics, focusing on different identities, bodies, histories, desires, experiences, and even struggles and violences. Whether on the page, screen, on campus, or in the community, we

“First sentences are doors to worlds.”
 —Ursula K. Le Guin

“Politicians should read science fiction, not westerns and detective stories.”
 —Isaac Asimov



Required Course Texts & Materials

- Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*.
- Le Guin, *The Dispossessed*.
- Tiptree, *Her Smoke Rose Up Forever*.
- Butler, *Bloodchild and Other Stories*.
- Butler, *Lilith’s Brood*.
- Lai, *Salt Fish Girl*.
- Okorafor, *Binti*.
- Short readings will be available via Blackboard.
- Web access and an active Ohio University email account.



Course Requirements

- Presentation (10%)
- Creative Responses (10%)
- Short Papers (30%)
- Final Paper/Project (20%)
- Class Participation (30%)

will explore and engage multiple perspectives, levels of familiarity with the material, and heady and heartfelt responses. In other words, our class will be a safe, respectful, but not necessarily comfortable space. While pushing boundaries and comfort zones are essential to critical thinking, making connections, and intellectual and personal freedom, see me with concerns and queries, for reasonable accommodations, and for further resources on campus.

Requirements & Grading

Your grade should not be the sole exigence or motivation for this class. It is the hope of the course that you walk away from ENG 3850 with something more. Find some pleasure and some edification and some knowledge from this class (or any class really) and success is usually not far behind. With that in mind, your grade will be a reflection of engagement, effort, close reading, critical thinking, writing, and participation.

Critical Essay & Question Presentation (10%)

You will be a required to sign up for an oral presentation during the course of the quarter. For your presentation, you will read the texts assigned for a particular week, research a scholarly essay relevant to the texts and course, distribute the essay to the class the week prior, generate a critical question or two, and get the class discussion started for the day.

Creative Responses (10%)

Not only will you be reading feminist speculative and science fictions, you will write your own to explore and demonstrate the ideas and goals of the course. Over the course of the semester, you will write a personal essay, a short-short story, complete a drawing, and a critical review. These creative responses will be evaluated on completion and your critical, thoughtful engagement with the prompts.

Short Papers (30%)

Over the course of the semester, you will complete a number of short, analytical, and academic papers. These papers rehearse a range of genres, rhetorical situations, course goals, and engage the 3060J outcomes. You will write an academic summary, a close reading, a brief annotated bibliography, and a research proposal memo. They will be graded on clarity, focus, coherence, whether they satisfy the assignment, and on your ability to concisely formulate arguments. You will also have the opportunity to improve your paper grades through careful revision.

Final Paper/Project (20%)

By the end of the semester, you will complete a Final Project that integrates what you have read, explored, and written about in your previous papers, that draws on specific terms, concepts, or issues from the class, and that articulates the critical value of feminist science fiction. The project asks you to make connections and to create an argument across different kinds of evidence and added research. Your final project can be a traditional research paper, a media production (which includes a substantive analytical component), or a hybrid of the two.

Participation and Preparedness (30%)

Preparedness and participation forms a large component of your final grade. It is essential that you prepare for class, attend class, and participate. Missing class may seriously compromise your ability to do well in this class. Moreover,

“If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities.”
—Maya Angelou



“There are plenty of images of women in science fiction. There are hardly any women.”
—Joanna Russ

“So here is why I write what I do: We all have futures. We all have pasts. We all have stories. And we all, every single one of us, no matter who we are and no matter what’s been taken from us or what poison we’ve internalized or how hard we’ve had to work to expel it--we all get to dream.”
—N.K. Jemisin

negative participation will hurt your participation grade. Participation is determined by 1) your **respectful** presence in class and interactions with me and others, 2) your **willingness** to discuss, comment, and ask questions, 3) your **preparation** for class, which includes bringing required materials to class and doing all of the assigned reading for class, 4) your **engagement** and **collaboration** in group work, presentations, office hours, and course events, and 5) your care and use of the class *Blackboard*—henceforth called the “class blog”—bookmark the address, check and comment regularly, once or twice a week, and think of the blog as an extension of class: https://blackboard.ohio.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course_id=468147_1.

Attendance

Attendance is required. If you are absent, you miss the explanation of an assignment, the discussion of a reading, the chance to participate, and overall, the class as a community of learning. Also, you are expected to be in class on time. Class will start immediately at the appointed time. In the first minutes of class I may make important announcements, establish the agenda for the day, begin immediately with an important lesson, or field questions. If you come in after we start class, even by only a few minutes, you are late and will be mark as such. Chronic or conspicuous attendance problems will negatively affect your overall participation grade for the class. **Moreover, absences for more than 14 class sessions (50% of class time or more) will result in a failing grade regardless of reason. There are no excused or unexcused absences.** If you know you are going to or must miss class, please let me know (via email) as soon as possible and make any necessary arrangements. When you do miss class, always find another student to get class notes or see me during office hours in order to make up missed work in a timely manner. You are always responsible for all material covered during your absence.

Assignment Format

All papers must be typed or produced on a word processor. All documents should be saved in Microsoft Word format (or if necessary Rich Text Format). All papers must follow the manuscript format outlined by the assignment. Unless instructed otherwise, **all papers must use MLA citation and documentation conventions.** All papers must be neatly printed (in black), stapled in the top, left-hand corner if necessary, and should not be three-hole punched. Papers that do not follow these format guidelines will not be accepted. They will be returned unread to you. Papers will be regarded as late until they are resubmitted in the proper format.

Always make a backup copy of every paper you turn in, lest you be one of the unhappy people whose paper is eaten by the computer. You may even want to take the precaution of e-mailing your paper to yourself as an attachment during the drafting process and certainly before you exit the document and leave the computer. Or you may want to invest in cloud-based file storage like OneDrive (which all OU students have already have access) or DropBox.

Evaluation Rubric

Over the course of the quarter, your assignments will receive feedback and comments that will identify what you are doing well and what still needs improvement. Your grades assess your fulfillment of the assignment, the quality of work, detail, analysis, and argumentation, overall effort, and finally, style, polish, and risk taking. Consider the following evaluation rubric as signposts or a kind of legend to your progress and evaluation:



MLA Paper Formatting

- 1) 1” margins top, bottom, left, and right on each page.
- 2) Single-spaced block header on the first page only with your name, date, course, my name:
Student Name
ENG 3060J
January 17, 2018
Dr. Chang
- 3) Short, appropriate title.
- 4) Print single-sided. Papers are double-spaced with paper page numbers in the upper right hand corner; no extra space between paragraphs.
- 5) Standard Times Roman Font, 12 point only.
- 6) Correct MLA citation and bibliographic format. A paper turned in without a bibliography automatically fails and will be returned with no comments.



Late Assignments

All assignments must be done completely and turned in on time. Late assignments will be penalized half a grade for every day that they are late. So, if your essay is late by one day and you received a B- for your work, then your final grade would be a C+. Moreover, I will not comment on late work. However, you still need to complete late work or you will receive a zero. If you miss class on the due date of a paper, you must notify me and make arrangements to get the paper to me as soon as possible. **Unless previously arranged, I DO NOT accept assignments via email.** Remember that a paper has not been officially handed in until it is in my hands. Never turning anything in late is always the best policy.



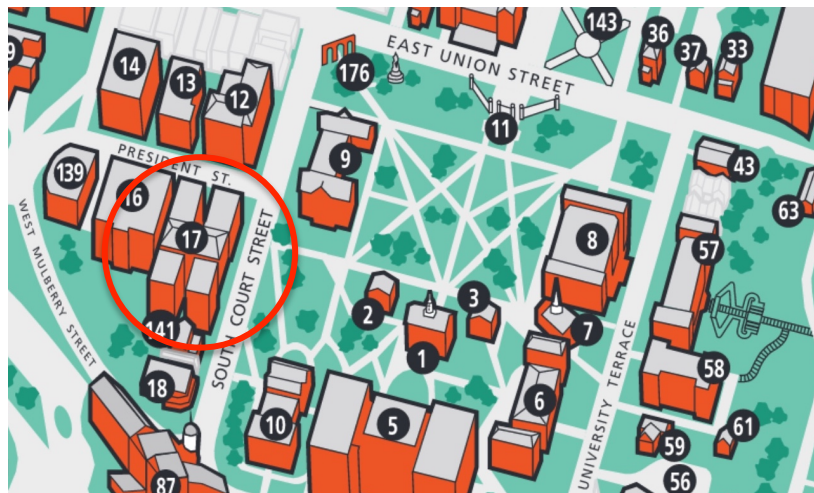
Contact Ed

Office:
S205 Lindley Hall
(South Wing)
Office Hours:
MW 12-1:30 PM
or by appointment
E-mail:
change@ohio.edu
Google Talk:
EDagogy

- **Outstanding (A/A+)**: Offers a very highly proficient, even memorable demonstration of the trait(s) associated with the course or assignment goal(s), including some appropriate risk-taking and/or creativity.
- **Strong (B+/A-)**: Offers a proficient demonstration of the trait(s) associated with the course or assignment goal(s), which could be further enhanced with revision, additional support, and creativity.
- **Good (B-/B)**: Effectively demonstrates the trait(s) associate with the course or assignment goal(s), but less proficiently; could use revision to demonstrate more skillful and nuanced command of trait(s).
- **Acceptable (C/C+)**: Minimally meets the basic course or assignment requirement, but the demonstrated trait(s) are not fully realized or well-controlled and would benefit from significant revision.
- **Inadequate (D/D+)**: Does not meet the course or assignment requirement; the trait(s) are not adequately demonstrated and require substantial revision on multiple levels.

Finding Help

My office and office hours are listed in the left sidebar. I am available during that time and by appointment to help you. I encourage you to come see me early in the quarter even if it is just to talk about the class, about the assignments, or about school in general. I may ask you to meet with me when I think a conference would be useful. My office is located on the second floor, south wing of Lindley Hall (west of College Green), south elevator stop 2R, Room S205. See <<https://www.ohio.edu/athens/ioumap.html>>



I am also available electronically by email and the course blog. Email and the blog are the best means of contacting me. I will do my best to answer your emails and blog posts, usually **within twenty-four hours**. If there is an emergency and you need to reach me, please contact the main English office in N196 Lindley Hall. Furthermore, when time permits, I will supplement my office hours with virtual hours via Google Talk (**nickname: EDagogy**); if I am logged in, during reasonable hours, you are more than welcome to discuss the class or ask questions. Please, when you initiate an IM conversation for the first time, please identify yourself to me; also, be **patient** because my responses may not be immediate.

You can find additional writing and academic help at the Student Writing Center (SWC) on campus, a good resource for this class and other classes. The SWC is located in the Academic Advancement Center (AAC) on the first floor of Alden



Learning (With) Technology

Unless you have an official accommodation, the use of technology in our classroom is a privilege, not a right. Mobile devices like phones, media players, and cameras should be off and put away. Computers and tablets should be used for note-taking, in-class work, and readings only. Print is generally preferred for course texts and readings, but full-size e-versions are acceptable provided the student is able to readily highlight, annotate, and index. Finally, be conscientious and respectful in the use of the course website and social media and post no material from class to the internet or non-class sites without explicit permission from the instructor and the class. Keep in mind these three rules:

- 1) Use the Right Tool for the situation and the task—keep it simple and elegant,
- 2) Practice Best Practices—it must improve or enhance your learning,
- 3) Be a Good Neighbor—it cannot distract or detract from others' learning.

Inappropriate use and abuse of technology in class will result in the taking away of technology privileges for the offending student and/or class as a whole.

Library and offers a variety of services including help with reading, papers, brainstorming ideas, and research. See <<https://www.ohio.edu/uc/aac/swc.cfm>> to make an appointment and for more information. Further resources, both on- and off-campus can be found on the Links page of the course website: <<http://www.edmondchang.com/courses/3060/links.html>>.

Academic Integrity

All students are required to uphold the highest academic standards. Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else's ideas or writing as your own. In your writing for this class, you are encouraged to refer to other people's thoughts and writing—as long as you cite them. Many students do not have a clear understanding of what constitutes plagiarism, so feel free to ask questions at any time. For our class, plagiarism includes:

- a student failing to cite sources of ideas
- a student failing to cite sources of paraphrased material
- a student failing to cite sources of specific language and/or passages
- a student submitting someone else's work as his or her own
- a student submitting his or her own work produced for another class

If you have any doubt about how to cite or acknowledge another's writing, please talk to me. Any plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in failure of an assignment or of this course. It is always better to be safe than sorry. Please review the Ohio University's Academic Misconduct page at <<https://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/academic/students.cfm>>.

Accommodations

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should see me or contact me **in the first week of class** to discuss their specific needs and provide written documentation from Student Accessibility Services. If you are not yet registered as a student with a disability, please contact Student Accessibility Services at 740-593-2620 or visit the SAS office in 348 Baker University Center. The SAS website is: <<https://www.ohio.edu/uc/sas/index.cfm>>.

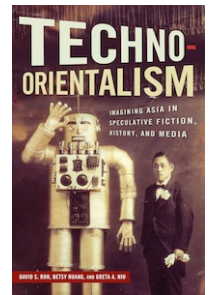
Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

Ohio University and this course are committed to a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. Title IX makes clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, and so on. As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter and am required by law to share with the University any information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on campus. For more information about policies and resources or confidential reporting options, see the Office of University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance: <<https://www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights/>> or the Division of Student Affairs page on Student Conduct & Community Standards:

<<https://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/process/sexualassault.cfm>>.

“Some of my favorite places I have been in my life exist only in dreams.”

—Nisi Shawl



“My imagination makes me human and makes me a fool; it gives me all the world and exiles me from it.”

—Ursula K. Le Guin

“I don't pretend we have all the answers. But the questions are certainly worth thinking about.”

—Arthur C. Clarke

syl-la-bus: n 1: a summary outline of a discourse, treatise, or course of study or of examination requirements 2: subject to change

Dr. Chang / ENG 3060J / Spring 2018 / Ohio University

1/16

First Day of Classes

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Week 1: January 15-19

Introduction to the Course & Syllabus
 Delany, "Aye, and Gomorrah..."
 Merrick, "Introduction" & "Birth of a Sub-Genre"
 Halberstam, "Gender," *Keywords*

Week 2: January 22-26

Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)

Week 3: January 29-February 2

Le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* (cont.)

Week 4: February 5-9*

Le Guin, *The Dispossessed* (1974)

Week 5: February 12-16

Le Guin, *The Dispossessed* (cont.)

Week 6: February 19-23*

Tiptree, "The Women Men Don't See" & "The Girl Who Was Plugged In" (1973)

Week 7: February 26-March 2*

Tiptree, "Houston, Houston, Do You Read" (1976) & "The Screwfly Solution" (1977)

Week 8: March 5-9

Butler, "Bloodchild" (1984) & "Speech Sounds" (1983)

Week 9: March 12-16

Spring Break

Week 10: March 19-23*

Butler, "Amnesty" (2003)
 Butler, "Positive Obsession" (1989) & "Furor Scribendi" (1993)

Week 11: March 26-30

Butler, *Dawn* (1987)
 Ferguson, "Race," *Keywords*

Week 12: April 2-6

Butler, *Dawn* (cont.)

Week 13: April 9-13*

Lai, *Salt Fish Girl* (2002)
 Somerville, "Queer," *Keywords*

Week 14: April 16-20

Lai, *Salt Fish Girl* (cont.)

Week 15: April 23-27

Okorafor, *Binti* (2015)

Week 16: April 30-May 4

Okorafor, *Binti* (cont.)

Week 17: Finals Week

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Project Proposal and
 Conferences Due

Final Project Due