

<p>Prof. S.A. Smith</p> <p>Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00 p.m. or by individual appointment</p>	<div data-bbox="662 268 886 579" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">AML 4311: Major Authors: Ursula K. Le Guin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Class no. 2I235/Sec. no. ISSI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">100% online</p>	<p>T/ Period 4 (10:40-11:30 a.m.)</p> <p>R/Periods 4-5 (10:40-12:35 a.m.)</p>
--	--	---

ssmith@ufl.edu and www.stephaniesmith.net

Hailed as a 'living legend' during her lifetime, Ursula Kroeber Le Guin passed away at the age of 88 in January 2018. Now recognized as one of the greatest authors of the late-twentieth century, Le Guin created new and alien worlds that yet always speak to deeply important issues in our own lives, and to what it means to be human. By turns witty and wild, mischievous, and always dangerous, Le Guin's consummate ability to both entertain and make the reader think is a rare and radiant combination that this class will explore by examining her multi-faceted career as a novelist, poet, critic, essayist, and children's book author.

Required Readings: First, a word about these texts: given that most students now use e-media almost exclusively, I've given up trying to get us all "on the same page" even if I still think this is the most effective way of reading together in a classroom. So you can find most of these texts easily at online outlets (I prefer Powell's Books in Portland, Oregon, but I leave that up to you), or I will supply a PDF or link if available.

Le Guin, Ursula K., *The Real and the Unreal: Selected Short Stories*

- _____ The *EarthSea* Cyle: (1968-2001)
 - A Wizard of Earthsea*
 - The Tombs of Atuan*
 - The Farthest Shore*
 - Tehanu*
 - The Other Wind*
- _____ *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)
- _____ *The Lathe of Heaven* (1971)
- _____ *The Dispossessed* (1974)
- _____ *From Elfland to Poughkeepsie* (1973)

Online Resources:

Ursula K. Le Guin's homepage: <https://www.ursulakleuin.com/home>

92 Y NYC reading from 1995 at <https://soundcloud.com/92y/ursula-k-le-guin-prose-and-poetry>

[How The Left Hand of Darkness Changed Everything](#)

Requirements: We shall be doing short writing-response exercises, a mid-term assignment and a final paper. Final grades will be assigned according to the following numerical breakdown: Class participation 30% (this includes any and all classwork); mid-term: 30% and final paper: 40% .

a. Attendance: The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated based on your attendance and your participation in class activities, such as discussion and in class writing exercises.

b. Preparation. You will agree to have prepared whatever the day's assignment is. Just showing up does not constitute good participation. I mean this. If all you do is show up as a black box on Zoom, that is not nearly enough.

Mid-Term: For the mid-term paper, choose one of the *Earthsea* novels, and write an argument that explores how that novel comments upon our 'reality,' while simultaneously engaging in imagining the 'unreal': how does your chosen novel either augment or distort 'reality' and why the fictional manipulation of the 'real' can have consequences for a new and/or different understanding of our own contemporary lives. You should use evidence from the other novels in the cycle that will support the argument you are making about the one you've chosen (6-10 pages).

Final Paper: Choose the pairing of either *Lathe of Heaven* and "The Wife's Story" or the pairing of *The Left Hand of Darkness* and "Those Who Walk Away from Omelas" and write an argumentative essay about what you see as the relationship between the two texts, and why that relationship is important to any understanding of Le Guin's work. You may use other short stories and/or Le Guin texts and/or research to support your argument (10 pages).

OR if you dare, and really want to do so, I will discuss a science fiction creative option for you. As a published novelist and short story writer, I know the lure of writing fiction instead of criticism (and sometimes *vice-versa*) so speak with me, if you are interested.

And now for the obligatory UF stuff

Academic Honesty Policy: UF students are bound by the Honor Pledge that states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

Plagiarism: I regret having to remind you that plagiarism is a serious offense. All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines, which have been accepted by the University. The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students are expected to pursue knowledge with integrity. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to act with integrity. Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and a student being subject to the sanctions in paragraph XIV of the Student Conduct Code. The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines (University of Florida Rule 6C1_4.017). For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and collusion, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

Civility: Please turn off cell-phones during class time; if you need to leave the classroom during class, please be sure to and leave with discretion. You will be marked absent if you are gone more than 10 minutes; unless you have an official disability that requires laptop use in the class, please do not use laptops during class; if you need sleep, please stay home and sleep; please do not be rude, either to me, or to your fellow students. It

is the policy of The University of Florida to provide an educational and working environment for its students, faculty and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. In accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sex discrimination and sexual harassment will not be tolerated, and individuals who engage in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. The University encourages students, faculty, staff and visitors to promptly report sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more about the University of Florida policies regarding harassment, see the University of Florida Student Conduct Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/conductcode.php> and policies regarding harassment at <http://wwwhr.ufl.edu/ceo/sexharassment.html>

The Disability Resource Center: The Dean of Students Office provides students and faculty with information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff at the Disability Resource Center will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation of a disability is required to determine eligibility for appropriate classroom accommodations. The professional employees at the Disability Resource Program serve as full-time advocates for students with disabilities ensuring students have physical and programmatic access to all college programs. For more information about Student Disability Services, see: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability/>

Course Delivery: UF Admin. has designated this course as a 100% online.

Online Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Final Grade Appeals: If you want to appeal the final grade you receive for this course, you should contact Professor Kenneth Kidd, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator of the English Department. You will submit your course materials for evaluation by a committee assembled by Professor Kidd. The committee may decide to raise, lower, or leave unchanged your final grade for the course. Its decision is final.

Grading Scale A = 94-100; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; E = 0-59

UF Grading Policies for Assigning Grade Points
<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Schedule of Classes

The following schedule of readings is a working plan. If it becomes necessary to alter the schedule for whatever reason, I will try to give ample warning.

Unit I: *EarthSea* and the Power of (High) Fantasy

Unit II: The Art of the Short Story

Unit III: Science and Fiction

<i>Week I</i>	<i>Earthsea and the Power of (High) Fantasy</i>
T. Jan. 10	Introduction, here is a brief biography , and a poem to start us off (on syllabus) HMW: Read "The Rule of Names" (1964) for next class. PDF copy available on Canvas.

R. Jan. 12 "The Rule of Names" and introduction to the world of *Earthsea*.
HMW: read "From Poughkeepsie to Elfland" (1973) and start discussion of *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968)

Week 2

T. Jan. 17: *A Wizard of Earthsea* (1968)
HMW: QS#1 (on Canvas)
R. Jan. 19: Finish *Wizard*. QS #1 due.
HMW: read *The Tombs of Atuan* (1971)

Week 3

T. Jan. 24: *Tombs* discussion
R. Jan. 26: continue *Tombs*
HMW: read *The Farthest Shore* (1972) and QS #2 (on Canvas)

Week 4

T. Jan. 31: Finish *Tombs*, start *Shore*.
R. Feb. 2: discuss *Shore*. QS#2 due
HMW: read *Tehanu* (1990)

Week 5:

T. Feb 7: continue *Tehanu*
R. Feb 9: continue *Tehanu*
HMW: read *The Other Wind* (2001) and QS#3

Week 6:

T. Feb. 14: *The Other Wind (Valentine's Day)*
R. Feb. 16: *The Other Wind* QS#3 due
HMW: read the short stories "She Unnames Them," and "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas."

Week 7

The Art of the Short Story

T. Feb. 21 "She Unnames Them" and "Walk Away"
R. Feb. 23 "She Unnames Them"; "Walk Away"
HMW: Read "The Wife's Story"

Week 8

Mid-term

T. Feb. 28 "Walk Away"
R. Mar. 2 Mental Health Day Off/ finish your Midterm
Midterms are due by midnight tonight on Canvas.
HMW: read "Nine Lives"

Week 9

T. Mar. 7 "Nine Lives"
R. Mar. 9 "Nine Lives"
HMW: over the break, read *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)

Week 10

Spring Break (March 11-19)

Week 11

Science and Fiction

T. Mar. 21 *Left Hand*

R. Mar. 23 *Left Hand*

Week 12

T. Mar. 28 *Left Hand*

R. Mar. 30 *Left Hand*

HMW: read *The Lathe of Heaven*

Week 13

T. April 4 *Lathe*

R. April 6 *Lathe*

HMW: read *The Dispossessed*

Week 14

T. April 11 *Dispossessed*

R. April 13 *Dispossessed*

Week 15

T. April 18: *Dispossessed*

R. April 20: *Dispossessed*

Week 16

T. 25 April 25: Last Day of Class



Werewomen
by Ursula K. Le Guin

I want to go moonwalking
on it or under it I don't care
I just want to go moonwalking

alone.

Women in their sixties
don't go to the moon,
women in the cities
don't go out alone.

But I want O listen what I want
is to be not afraid.
Listen what I need is freedom.

Women in their sixties
think about dying,
women in the cities
think about dying,
all kinds of women
think about lying,
think about lying alone.

But listen there's a moon out there
and I don't want sex and I don't want death
and I don't want what you think I want
only to be a free woman.

What is that, a free woman,
a young free woman,
an old free woman?
Asking for the moon.

Women in their sixties
have no moon.

Women in the cities
howl at the moon.

All kinds of women
talk about walking alone.

When the moon is full
listen how they howl.
listen how they howl together.