

<p>Prof. S.A. Smith</p> <p>Office: TUR 4324 or the stars are my destination</p> <p>Office Hours: instructor available R 1-4:00 or by individual appointment</p>	<div data-bbox="662 331 886 642" data-label="Image"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AML 431 I: Major Authors: Ursula K. Le Guin</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sec. 22436</b></p>	<p>MWF Period 3 (9:35-10:25 a.m)</p>
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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 yet 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, essayist and children's book author.

**Required Readings:** First, a word about these texts: given that most students now use Kindles and such, 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 in a classroom. If you want the ISBN number of the volume I will be using, let me know. Otherwise, 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). This collection of short stories has many more stories in it than what we are using, so if you want to try to find them in a different format, that's also up to you.

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)*

**Online Resources:**

Ursula K. Le Guin's homepage: <https://www.ursulaklequin.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

**Mid-Term:** For the mid-term paper, using the *entire Earthsea Cycle*, write an argument that explores how the cycle comments upon our 'reality,' while simultaneously engaging in imagining the 'unreal': how does the cycle 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 (6-10 pages).

**Final Paper:** Choose the pairing of either *Lathe of Heaven* and "Nine Lives" or the pairing of *The Left Hand of Darkness* and "She Unnames Them" 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 author myself, I know the lure of writing fiction instead of criticism (and sometimes *vice-versa*) so speak with me, if you are interested.

### 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 Fantasy

#### Unit II: The Art of the Short Story

#### Unit III: Science and Fiction

<u>Week 1</u>	<u><i>Earthsea and the Power of Fantasy</i></u>
W Jan. 5	Introduction, <a href="#">brief biography</a> , and some poetry to start us off (on syllabus) <b>HMW:</b> Read "The Rule of Names" (1964) for next class. PDF copy available.
F. Jan. 7	"The Rule of Names" and introduction to <i>Earthsea</i> . <b>HMW:</b> read <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> (1968) and QS#1
<u>Week 2</u>	
M Jan. 10:	Finish "Rule of Names" and start discussion of <i>Wizard</i>
W Jan. 12:	continue discussion of <i>Wizard</i>
F Jan. 14:	QS #1 (on Canvas) <b>due</b> . Finish <i>Wizard</i> . <b>HMW:</b> read <i>The Tombs of Atuan</i> (1971)
<u>Week 3</u>	
M Jan. 17:	MLK Day Off
W Jan. 19:	<i>Tombs</i> discussion
F Jan. 21:	continue <i>Tombs</i> <b>HMW:</b> read <i>The Farthest Shore</i> (1972) and QS #2 (on Canvas)

Week 4

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- M Jan. 24: Finish *Tombs*, start *Shore*. QS#2 **due**  
W Jan. 26: discuss *Shore*.  
F Jan. 28: discuss *Shore*.  
**HMW:** read *Tehanu* (1990) and QS #3 (on Canvas)

Week 5:

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- M. Jan. 31 finish *Shore*; start *Tehanu*; QS#3 **due**  
W Feb 2: continue *Tehanu*  
F Feb 4: continue *Tehanu*  
**HMW:** read *The Other Wind* (2001)

Week 6:

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- M Feb 7: *The Other Wind*  
W Feb. 9: *The Other Wind*  
F Feb. 11 *The Other Wind*  
HMW: read the short stories "She Unnames Them," and  
"The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"

Week 7 *The Art of the Short Story*

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- M Feb 14 "She Unnames Them" (an ironic story for Valentine's Day!)  
W Feb 16 "Walk Away"  
F Feb. 18 Mental Health Day Off/ finish your Midterm

**Week 8** **Mid-term**

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- M Feb. 21 "Walk Away"  
W Feb. 23 "Wife's Story"  
F. Feb. 25 "Wife's Story"

**Midterms are due by midnight tonight on Canvas. HMW: read "Nine Lives"**

Week 9

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- M Feb 28 "Nine Lives"  
W Mar. 2 "Nine Lives"  
F Mar. 4 "Nine Lives"  
**HMW:** read *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)

Week 10 **Spring Break**

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**Finish reading *Left Hand of Darkness***

Week 11 *Science and Fiction*

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- M Mar. 14 *Left Hand*  
W Mar. 16 *Left Hand*  
F Mar. 18 *Left Hand*

*Week 12*

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M Mar. 21 *Left Hand*

W Mar. 23 *Left Hand*

F Mar. 25 *Left Hand*

**HMW:** read *The Lathe of Heaven*

*Week 13*

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M Mar. 29 *Lathe*

W Mar. 30 *Lathe*

F April 1 *Lathe*

**HMW:** read *The Dispossessed*

*Week 14*

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M April 4 *Dispossessed*

W April 6 *Dispossessed*

F April 8 *Dispossessed*

*Week 15*

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M April 11: *Dispossessed*

W April 13: *Dispossessed*

F April 15: *Dispossessed*

*Week 16*

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M April 18: Round up

W April 20: Party! Last Day of Classes. Final due.

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.