ENG 4439: Speculative Fictions
Spring 2023
Grading criteria / Assessment

This course is a 10-week Master's seminar consisting mostly of seminar discussion of the course material, with the final grade based on a 10-15 page paper.

Primary texts:

The Left Hand of Darkness (Le Guin)
Trail of Lightning (Roanhorse)
Parable of the Sower (Butler)
Binti (Okarafor)
Daughters of the North (Hall)

Secondary texts: various articles on posthumanism, Afrofuturism, Indigenous futurism, feminist futures, and more.

Seminar paper/ exam assignment
This is from the assignment the students received:

For this writing assignment, you are required to write a 10-15 page research paper that engages with the course material. You will be writing on a topic of your choice. As to primary texts, you may choose material we covered in class, other books of interest, or a combination of these. You may choose to focus on one text, or compare and contrast two or three texts. Whatever you choose, the most important thing is to have an *argument* or *problem* to pursue, and this "problemstilling" should engage with some of the ideas and theories we covered in the seminar.

Students initially turned in a paper proposal for approval.

Assessment criteria:

- As made clear above in the assignment, the paper should be 10-15 pages in standard font with 1.5 line spacing. Going over 15 pages is fine, although handing in a paper that is too short may be grounds for failure.

- Students should include a minimum of 4 secondary sources beyond the primary texts they write about. Too few sources can affect the grade negatively.

- The academic quality/grade of the exam is measured by the common expectations for literature studies:

1. The level of analytical skills
2. The student's grasp of the significance of the primary and secondary materials
3. The student's ability to relate the texts to their central claims / thesis statement
4. The clarity and organization of their writing (essays should follow standard essay format)
5. The use of the English language: language should be of good academic quality, with correct grammar and language usage generally. Language counts as part of a total assessment but not given any specific percentage of the final grade.