

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*2130-01	Course Title: Literature and Social Change: “Women’s Speculative Worlds”	Date of Offering: W24
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Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

How might the disjunctions and correlates between speculative worlds and our own generate discussion of social change, especially with a novel such as Octavia E. Butler’s *Parable of the Sower* (1993), which opens in the then-future world of an imagined 2024 that is now our present? Alongside *Parable of the Sower* we will read two other speculative novels published roughly a quarter century either side of Butler’s: Ursula K. le Guin’s *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969) and N. K. Jemisin’s *The Fifth Season* (2015). Together these three novels form a genealogy of women authoring speculative novels that enable us to track concerns about power, difference, and responsibility—particularly gender, sexuality, race, and the environment—over the past half century. Writing-intensive course.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

3 x short writing (15% each)	45%
Presentation	15%
Participation	10%
Essay	30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

- Ursula K. le Guin, *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969)
- Octavia E. Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (1993)
- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season* (2015)

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/distance/in-person/other details): In person delivery

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.