

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

FINAL EXAMINATION, APRIL 2001

ENG 287S - SCIENCE FICTION

Exam Type: A

Examiner: Dr. John H. Achorn

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The examination is divided into two parts. Part A consists of six (6) spot passages. You are to write on three (3) of them. Do not write on more than three. Part A accounts for 60% of your mark.

Therefore, each spot passage is worth 20% of your mark. Part B requires that you write an essay on the last two novels of the course, *Ender's Game* and *Virtual Light*. Everyone is to write on Part B. Part B accounts for 40% of your mark.

Part A:

Select three (3) of the six (6) spot passages below. Do not choose more than three. Each spot passage is worth 20% of your mark. In each case, you are to 1) identify the passage; that is, indicate the novel in which it appears, 2) situate the scene by placing it in context, and 3) comment on the relevance of the passage to the novel as a whole or to certain themes and motifs therein. Your response should be written in essay form, not in point form. Allow at least 20 minutes per spot passage.

- 20% 1. "I, for my own part, cannot think that these latter days of weak experiment, fragmentary theory, and mutual discord are indeed man's culminating time! I say, for my own part. He, I know – for the question had been discussed among us [before] – thought cheerlessly of the Advancement of Mankind, and saw in the growing pile of civilization only a foolish heaping that must inevitably fall back upon and destroy its makers in the end."

20% 2. *We are come not only past the century's closing, he thought, the millennium's turning, but to the end of something else. Era? Paradigm? Everywhere, the signs of closure.*

Modernity was ending.

Here, on the bridge, it long since had.

20% 3. "But since it could not be, we ask only this: that you remember us, not as enemies, but as tragic sisters, changed into a foul shape by fate or God or evolution. If we had kissed, it would have been the miracle to make us human in each other's eyes. Instead we killed each other. But still we welcome you now as guestfriends. Come into our home, daughters of Earth; dwell in our tunnels, harvest our fields; what we cannot do, you are now our hands to do for us. Blossom, trees; ripen, fields; be warm for them, suns; be fertile for them, planets; they are our adopted daughters, and they have come home."

20% 4. "Anyhow it was horrible. It upset me very much at the time. More than it ought to have done, I dare say. Because, after all, it's the sort of accident that might have happened to anyone; and, of course, the social body persists although the component cells may change."

20% 5. "...but what is the sense of giving a boundary to all that, of giving it a name and ceasing to love where the name ceases to apply? What is love of one's country; is it hate of one's uncountrry? Then it's not a good thing. Is it simply self-love? That's a good thing, but one mustn't make a virtue of it, or a profession.... Insofar as I love life, I love the hills of [my domain], but that sort of love does not have a boundary-line of hate. And beyond that, I am ignorant, I hope."

20% 6. "Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example, how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge and how much happier that man is who believes his native town to be the world, than he who aspire to become greater than his nature will allow."

Part B:

Everyone is to write on the following essay topic. The essay is worth 40% of your mark. Allow at least 40 minutes to write.

- 40% 7. A hero is the central character in a work of fiction, often associated with virtue but not necessarily. In *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card and *Virtual Light* by William Gibson, the heroes are Ender Wiggin and Berry Rydell, respectively. In a well-written essay, define the qualities that make Ender and Berry heroes, and comment on how these qualities influence our reading of the texts.

Total: 100%