

Midterm Quotation List  
FALL 2012 English 245: Science Fiction  
Dr. Halbert

Ten quotes from this list will be included on the midterm exam. You will need to identify the author, title, and significance of five of the quotes. You may identify the author and/or title of the remaining five for extra credit.

QUOTE: No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligence greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own: that men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinized and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinize the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water.

SOURCE: H.G Wells. From The War of the Worlds.

QUOTE: At most, terrestrial men fancied there might be other men upon Mars, perhaps inferior to themselves and ready to welcome a missionary enterprise.

SOURCE: H.G. Wells. War of the Worlds. Pg. 19

QUOTE: "Yet so vain is man, and so blinded by his vanity, that no writer, up to the very end of the nineteenth century, expressed any idea that intelligent life might have developed there far, or indeed at all, beyond its earthly level."

SOURCE: H.G. Wells. War of the Worlds. (P20).

QUOTE: "Forthwith flashes of actual flame, a bright glare leaping from one to another, sprang from the scattered group of men. It was as if some invisible jet impinged upon them and flashed into white flame. It was as if each man were suddenly and momentarily turned into flame."

SOURCE: H.G. Wells, from War of the Worlds

QUOTE: An enormous hole had been made by the impact of the projectile, and the sand and gravel had been flung violently in every direction over the heath, forming heaps visible a mile and a half away.

SOURCE: H.G. Wells, The War of the Worlds, p. 24

QUOTE: After the glimpse I had had of the Martians emerging from the cylinder in which they had come to the earth from their planet, a kind of fascination paralyzed my actions. I remained standing knee-deep in the heather, staring at the mound that hid them I was a battleground of fear and curiosity.

SOURCE: The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells, page 29

QUOTE: Well, we stared at the fire a while and I decided to attempt some sort of communication with the Martian. I pointed at myself and said 'Dick'; he caught the drift immediately, stretched a bony claw at me and repeated 'Tick.' Then I pointed at him, and he gave that whistle I called Tweel; I can't imitate his accent.

SOURCE: Stanley G. Weinbaum. "A Martian Odyssey". P37.

QUOTE: "Anyway, I finally gave it up, and got into my thermo-skin to sleep. The fire hadn't kept me any too warm, but that dammed sleeping bag did."

SOURCE: Weinbaum: "A Martian Odyssey" pg. 39

QUOTE: The beast was made of silica! There must have been pure silicon in the sand, and it lived on that. Get it? We, and Tweel, and those plants out there, even the biopods are carbon life; this thing lived by a different set of chemical reactions. It was silicon life!

SOURCE: Stanley G. Weinbaum, "A Martian Odyssey", p. 43

QUOTE: Anyway, proceeded Jarvis, I went on with my lesson. Things were going smoothly and it looked as if I could put the idea over. I pointed at the earth with my diagram, and then at myself, and then, to clinch it, I pointed to myself and then to earth itself shining bright green almost at the zenith.

SOURCE: Stanley G. Weinbaum. "A Martian Odyssey"

QUOTE: "That's what started the fight!" He drew a glistening object from his pocket. "Here it is."

SOURCE: "A Martian Odyssey" by Stanley G. Weinbaum, page 52

QUOTE: "...a robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow him to come to harm."

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov, "Liar!"

QUOTE: "We've got a mind-reading robot on our hands and it strikes me as rather important that we find out just why it reads minds. We're not going to do that by saying, 'Your fault! My fault!' "

SOURCE: Asimov 282 , "Liar!"

QUOTE: Your Science is just a mass collected data plastered together by make-shift theory – and all so incredibly simple, that it's scarcely worth bothering about.

SOURCE: p 285. Isaac Asimov. "Liar!"1941

QUOTE: "Don't think I don't see through you, you desiccated fossil. You'd cut your own nose off before you'd let me get the credit for solving robotic telepathy."

SOURCE: Asimov: "Liar!" pg. 290

QUOTE: Exactly! Any kind! But what about hurt feelings? What about deflation of one's ego? What about the blasting of one's hopes? Is that Injury?

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov, "Liar!", P293

QUOTE: This robot reads minds. Do you suppose it doesn't know everything about mental injury? Do you suppose that if asked a question, it wouldn't give exactly that answer that one wants to hear? Wouldn't any other answer hurt us, and wouldn't Herbie know that?

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov. "Liar!" Masri pg. 293

QUOTE: "What's the point of saying that? Don't you suppose that I can see past the superficial skin of your mind? Down below, you don't want me to. I'm a machine, given the imitation of life only by virtue of the positronic interplay in my brain – which is man's device. You can't lose face to me without being hurt. That is deep in your mind and won't be erased, I can't give the solution."

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov, "Liar!", P294.

QUOTE: Close your mind! It is full of pain and frustration and hate!

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov, "Liar!", P295

QUOTE: It was like the whistling of a piccolo many times magnified – Shrill and shriller till it keened with the terror of a lost soul and filled the room with the piercingness of itself.

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov. Liar! Pg. 295

QUOTE: The words were beginning to make sense. "This is a dream," he was saying, "and you mustn't believe in it. You'll wake into the real world soon and laugh at yourself. He loves you, I tell you. He does, he does! But not here! Not now! This is an illusion."

SOURCE: "Liar!" by Isaac Asimov

QUOTE: But they want it, and the fact that you have it and won't give it hurts them. You see that, don't you?

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov, Liar!, pg. 295

QUOTE: "Maybe we got lost in the dimensions, do you think?"

SOURCE: page 80. Print. Bradbury, Ray, "Mars is Heaven!"

QUOTE: "No, no, don't think that," she cried, softly, pleadingly. "We're here. Don't question. God is good to us. Let's be happy."

SOURCE: Bradbury: "Mars Is Heaven!" pg. 84

QUOTE: But, he thought, just suppose. Just suppose now, that there were Martians living on Mars and they saw our ship coming and saw us inside our ship and hated us. Suppose, now, for just the hell of it, that they wanted to destroy us, as invaders, as unwanted ones, and they wanted to do it in a very clever way, so that we would be taken off guard. Well what would the best weapon be that a Martian could use against Earth-men with atom weapons?

The Answer was interesting. Telepathy, hypnosis, memory, and imagination.

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, "Mars Is Heaven!" (85-86)

QUOTE: And wouldn't it be horrible and terrifying to discover that all of this was part of some great clever plan by the Martians to divide and conquer us, and kill us. Some time during the night, perhaps, my brother here on this bed, will change form, melt, shift, and become a one-eyed, green and yellow-toothed Martian.

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, "Mars Is Heaven!" p. 86

QUOTE: "His hands were shaking under the covers. His body was cold. Suddenly it was not a theory. Suddenly he was very afraid."

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, "Mars is Heaven!"

QUOTE: His brother's voice was quite cold. "I said, where do you think you're going?"

"For a drink of water."

"But you're not thirsty."

"Yes, yes I am."

"No, you're not."

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury. "Mars Is Heaven!" Pg. 86

QUOTE: The coffins were lowered. Somebody murmured about "the unexpected and sudden death of seventeen fine men during the night ---"

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, "Mars is Heaven!", pg87

QUOTE: As he lifted his fork to his mouth, he could feel his family around him, as they always had been.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card. Ender's Game. Pg. 43

QUOTE: This wasn't the way the show was supposed to go. Graff was supposed to pick on him, not set him up as the best. They were supposed to be against each other at first, so they could become friends later.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game (pg32)

QUOTE: But nobody told birthdays. It was childish. It was what landsiders did. Cakes and silly customs.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game, page 93

QUOTE: "Believed, but the seed of doubt was there, and it stayed, and every now and then sent out a little root. It changed everything, to have that seed growing."

QUOTE: It's all fake. There is no war, and they're just screwing around with us.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game, P110

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card. Ender's Game (P111).

QUOTE: Instead, he found a mirror. And in the mirror he saw a face he easily recognized. It was Peter, with blood dripping down his chin and a snake's tail protruding from a corner of his mouth.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card. Ender's Game. P117

QUOTE: "Peter's face looking out at him from the mirror."

SOURCE: Card, Orson. Ender's Game. chapter 8, 118. Print.

QUOTE: Demosthenes published a scathing denunciation of the population limitation laws. People should be allowed to have as many children as they like, and the surplus population should be sent to other worlds, to spread mankind so far across the galaxy that no disaster, no invasion could ever threaten the human race with annihilation. "The most noble title any child can have," Demosthenes wrote, "is Third."

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender's Game (pg. 153)

QUOTE: That's what I'm doing to you Bean. I'm hurting you to make you a better solider in every way. To sharpen your wit. To intensify your effort. To keep you off balance, never sure what's going to happen next.

SOURCE Orson Scott Card. Ender's Game. Pg. 168

QUOTE: [He] isn't a killer. He just wins – thoroughly.

SOURCE: Card, Orson. Ender's Game.. chapter 12, 226. Print.

QUOTE: Val, he said. I just want one thing clear. I'm not going for you. I'm not going in order to be governor, or because I'm bored here. I'm going because I know the buggers better than any other living soul, and maybe if I go there I can understand them better. I stole their future from them; I can only begin to repay by seeing what I can learn from their past.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*, p. 314

QUOTE: "You can't imagine how comforting it is to be transparent. There's no need to pretend, adjust, advance, retreat or discuss the oddities of my planet."

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman. "When I Was Miss Dow" (P90).

QUOTE: Yes, I'm jealous of it, I burn with a rage and jealousy, he has abandoned me to be Martha and I wish I were myself again, free in shape and single in mind. Not this sack of mud clinging to another. Yet he's teaching me that it's good to cling to another. I'm exhausted from strange disciplines.

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman. "When I Was Miss Dow". Masri Pg. 92

QUOTE: Once at home I try to talk to my few friends about my feelings. But I discover that whatever female patterns they've borrowed are superficial ones; none of them bother to grow an extra lobe, but merely tuck the Terran pattern into a corner of their own for handy reference.

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman. "When I Was Miss Dow". P93.

QUOTE: "The story is that the local life forms aren't as we really see them. They've put on faces, like ours, to deal with us."

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman. "When I Was Miss Dow" (P94).

QUOTE: It feels like we're surfing the crest of the invading program, hanging ten above the seething glitch systems as they mutate. We're sentient patches of oil swept along down the corridors of shadow.

SOURCE: William Gibson. "Burning Chrome". P374.

QUOTE: Too many stories in the Gentleman Loser; black ice is a part of the mythology. Ice that kills. Illegal, but then aren't we all? Some kind of neural-feedback weapon, and you connect with it only once. Like some hideous Word that eats the mind from the inside out. Like an epileptic spasm that goes on and on until there's nothing left at all...

SOURCE: William Gibson. "Burning Chrome".. Masri pg. 380

QUOTE: She'd had her corneas done twice, but she still wasn't 20-20; so she wanted Ikons. Brand of the stars. Very Expensive.

SOURCE: . "Burning Chrome".. Gibson 381

QUOTE: We were looking for the world's heaviest fence, for a non-aligned money laundry capable of dry-cleaning a megabuck online cash transfer and then forgetting about it.

SOURCE: Gibson: "Burning Chrome" pg. 382

QUOTE: "I been on her, like you said, tight but out of sight. She goes to the Loser, hangs out, then she gets a tube. Goes to the House of Blue Lights – ” “She what?” “Side door. Employees only. No way I could get past their security.”

SOURCE: William Gibson. "Burning Chrome". Pg. 385

QUOTE: So I went out into the night and the neon and let the crowd pull me along, walking blind, willing myself to just be a segment of that mass organism, just one more drifting chip of consciousness under the geode-sics. I didn't think, just put one foot in front of another, but after a while I did think, and it all made sense. She'd needed the money.

SOURCE: William Gibson, "Burning Chrome," p. 385

QUOTE: "The Long Hum people were so oblique that they made my idea of a subtle approach look like a tactical nuke-out."

SOURCE: William Gibson, "Burning Chrome"

QUOTE: But tomorrow she would remember all this as a humiliation. I did not want to be part of a remembered humiliation. Best just to be still and know she loved me under all the duty and pride and pain.

SOURCE: Octavia E. Butler, "Bloodchild," P122.

QUOTE: My father had rerouted the waste water below before I was born. Now the pipe could be turned so that one half slid around the other and a rifle could be stored inside.

SOURCE: Octavia E. Butler. "Bloodchild"a. Pg. 125

QUOTE: "Yet I did not want to go into that room. I wasted a little time choosing a knife from the carved, wooden box in which my mother kept them."

SOURCE: Butler: "Bloodchild" pg. 125

QUOTE: The whole procedure was wrong, alien. I wouldn't have thought anything about her could seem alien to me.

SOURCE: Octavia E. Butler, "Bloodchild" p. 127

QUOTE: I chose you. I believed you had grown to choose me.

SOURCE: Octavia E. Butler, "Bloodchild", pg134

QUOTE: "I see," she said quietly. "Would you really rather die than bear my young, Gan?"

SOURCE: Butler 133 "Bloodchild",

QUOTE: She's Jammed among bodies, craning and peering with her soul yearning out of her eyeballs. Love! Oo-oooh, love them! Her gods are coming out of a store called Body East. Three youngbloods, larking along loverly. Dressed like simple street-people but... smashing. See their great eyes swivel above their nose-filters, their hands lift shyly, their inhumanly tender lips melt? The crowd moans. Love! This whole boiling megacity, this whole fun future world loves its gods.

SOURCE: James Tiptree Jr., "The Girl Who Was Plugged In" (pg. 343)

QUOTE: "What do gods do? Well, everything beautiful."

SOURCE: James Tiptree Jr., "The Girl Who Was Plugged In"

QUOTE: "But it means you never see anybody you know again. Never, ever. You will be legally dead. Even the police won't know. Do you want to try?"

SOURCE: James Tiptree, Jr. "The Girl Who Was Plugged In"

QUOTE: She's always known Delphi has almost no sense of taste or smell. They explained about that: Only so much bandwidth. You don't have to taste a suncar, do you? And the slight overall dimness of Delphi's sense of touch – she's familiar with that too.

SOURCE: James Tiptree Jr. "The Girl Who Was Plugged In". Masri pg. 352

QUOTE: History goes by swings. People overreact and pass harsh unrealistic laws which attempt to stamp out an essential social process.

SOURCE: "The Girl Who Was Plugged In" by James Trippee, Jr.

QUOTE: But Delphi is in no sense a robot. Call her a waldo if you must. The fact is she's just a girl, a real live girl with her brain in an unusual place. A simple real-time on-line system with plenty of bit-rate – even as you and you.

SOURCE: James Tiptree Jr., "The Girl Who Was Plugged In", p. 351

QUOTE: You See. Remotes don't love. They don't have real sex, the circuits designed that from out from the start.



QUOTE: They've got the whole world programmed! Total control of communications. They've got everybody's minds wired in to think what they show them and want what they give them and they give them what they're programmed to want

SOURCE: James Tiptree Jr., "The Girl Who Was Plugged In", P362

SOURCE James Tiptree Jr. "The Girl Who Was Plugged In". Pg. 363

QUOTE: "Your control." Paul is furious, the thought of that monster fastened into little Delphi's brain nauseates him. He sees her crumpling and holds out his arms. Not knowing she is dead.

SOURCE: James Tiptree Jr. "The Girl Who Was Plugged In." Pg. 396

QUOTE: "Sir," Scott said to Hendricks. "It's sure strange they suddenly came around. We've been using the claws for almost a year. Now all of a sudden they start to fold."

SOURCE: Dick 299 "Second Variety",

QUOTE: He had never seen that type before. There were getting to be more and more types he had never seen, new varieties and sizes coming up from the underground factories.

SOURCE: Philip K. Dick, "Second Variety", P300.

QUOTE: The American bloc governments moved to the Moon Base the first year. There was not much else to do. Europe was gone, a slag heap with dark weeds growing from the ashes and bones. Most of North America was useless; nothing could be planted, no one could live.

SOURCE: Philip K. Dick. "Second Variety". Masri pg. 301

QUOTE: Across the ground something small and metallic came, flashing in the dull sunlight of mid-day. A metal sphere. It raced up the hill after the Russian, its treads flying. It was small, one of the baby ones.

SOURCE: Phillip K. Dick, "Second Variety"

QUOTE: And he had given her the ship and the signal code. Because of him she was on her way to the moon, to the Moon Base. He had made it possible. ...Not designed by human beings. It had been designed by one of the underground factories, apart from all human contact.

SOURCE: Phillip K. Dick, "Second Variety":

QUOTE: Found out that your claws were beginning to make up new designs on their own. New types on their own. Better types. Down in your underground factories behind our lines. You let them stamp themselves, repair themselves. Made them more and more intricate. It's your fault this happened. (Pg. 308)

SOURCE: "The Second Variety" Phillip K. Dick

QUOTE: It makes me wonder if we're not seeing the beginning of a new species. The new species. Evolution. The race to come after man.

SOURCE: Philip K. Dick, "Second Variety", pg. 311

QUOTE: "We were sitting at the table. Playing cards. You two were in the other room. It was silent. I thought I heard him --- whirr."

SOURCE: Dick: "Second Variety" pg. 315

QUOTE: Not designed by human beings.

SOURCE: Philip K. Dick. "Second Variety". Pg. 331

QUOTE: They were already beginning to design weapons to use against each other.

SOURCE: Phillip K. Dick, "The Second Variety", P331

QUOTE: They were already beginning to design weapons to use against each other.

SOURCE: Phillip K. Dick, "The Second Variety", P331

QUOTE: I picture myself opening the door and throwing my body onto the highway but of course I don't do anything. (Pg. 417)

SOURCE: Ken Liu. "The Algorithms for Love".

QUOTE: "Seeing an inanimate object display intelligent behavior had that effect on people. They probably all thought the doll was possessed. Then I would explain how Laura worked and everyone would be delighted."

SOURCE: Ken Liu. "The Algorithms for Love" (P418-419).

QUOTE: I loved the fact that I knew him so well I could tell what he was going to say before he said it. Let's make a baby, I imagined him saying. Those would have been the only words right for that moment.

And so he did. (Pg. 420)

SOURCE: Ken Liu. "The Algorithms for Love".

QUOTE: ... to take apart something like Kimberly to figure out how she worked. How it worked, I corrected myself mentally, Kimberly's illusion of intelligence was so real that sometimes even I unconsciously gave her, it, too much credit.

SOURCE: Ken Liu, The Algorithms for Love, P420

QUOTE: With a little plastiskin, a little synthgel, the right set of motors and a lot of clever programming. I could do it. Let technology heal all wounds.

SOURCE: Ken Liu. "The Algorithms for Love". Masri pg. 422

QUOTE: "The human body is a marvel to recreate. The human mind, on the other hand, is a joke. Believe me, I know."

SOURCE: Ken Liu. "The Algorithms for Love" (P423).

QUOTE: My doll was passing a real-life Turing Test. But I was frightened. The algorithms made a mockery of intelligence, and no one seemed to know. No one seemed to even care.

SOURCE: "Algorithms for Love," Ken Liu

QUOTE: You're running around in circles," he said, defeat in his voice. "You're just spinning in your head."

Loops in my algorithm. FOR and WHILE loops.

"Come back to me. I love you."

What else could he have said? (Pg. 426)

SOURCE: "Algorithms for Love," Ken Liu

QUOTE: Substitute "processor" for the clerks and substitute "program" for the books of rules, then you'll see that the Turing Test will never prove anything, and AI is an illusion.

SOURCE: Ken Liu, "The Algorithms for Love," P424

QUOTE: "Now you think the brain is just a computer. Snap out of it. That is the illusion."

SOURCE: Liu 426 "The Algorithms for Love,"

QUOTE: Was there any limits to the follies of mankind?

SOURCE: Page 917 The Nine Billion Names of God," Arthur C. Clarke.1953

QUOTE: The human race will have finished what it was created to do, and there won't be any point in carrying on.

SOURCE: Arthur C. Clark, "The Nine Billion Names of God," P919.

QUOTE: Jane was sleeping soundly; I carried her out, put her in a grocery box on the seat of a car I had provided earlier, drove to the orphanage, put her on the steps, drove two blocks to a

“service station” (the petroleum-products sort) and phoned the orphanage, drove back in time to see them taking the box inside, kept going and abandoned the car near the motel – walked to it and jumped forward to the Apex Building in 1963.

SOURCE: Robert A. Heinlein, "All You Zombies"

QUOTE: Now you know who he is — and after you think it over you’ll know who you are ... and if you think hard enough, you’ll figure out who the baby is ... and who I am.

SOURCE: Robert A. Heinlein, “All You Zombies —”, P559

QUOTE: It is rude to whisper around these creatures that don’t possess the power of speech, she let me know without speaking.

SOURCE: Terry Bisson, "Bears Discover Fire"

QUOTE: It is also an effort to contribute to socialist-feminist culture and theory in a postmodernist, non-naturalist mode and in the utopian tradition of imagining a world without gender, which is perhaps a world without genesis, but maybe also a world without end. The cyborg incarnation is outside salvation history. (Pg. 457)

SOURCE: A Cyborg Manifesto Haraway, Donna j.

QUOTE: The cyborg is resolutely committed to partiality, irony, intimacy, and perversity. It is oppositional, utopian and completely without innocence. (Pg. 458)

SOURCE: "A Cyborg Manifesto" by Donna J. Haraway

QUOTE: People are nowhere near so fluid, being both material and opaque. Cyborgs are ether, quintessence. (Pg. 461)

SOURCE: "A Cyborg Manifesto" by Donna J. Haraway

QUOTE: What about all the ignorance of women, all the exclusions and failures of knowledge and skill? What about men's access to daily competence, to knowing how to build things, to take them apart, to play?

SOURCE: Haraway 474 "A Cyborg Manifesto"

QUOTE: “I would rather be a cyborg than a goddess”

SOURCE:,. Haraway Donna j. "A Cyborg Manifesto" p 475

QUOTE: We have all been injured, profoundly. We require regeneration, not rebirth, and the possibilities for our reconstitution include the Utopian dream of the hop for a monstrous world without gender.

SOURCE: "A Cyborg Manifesto" by Donna J. Haraway

QUOTE: When it was I who had every reason to hate, to despise, I was rejected? When I should have been begged, implored, I was denied the slightest recognition?

SOURCE: "The Fact of Blackness" by Frantz Fanon, page 191

QUOTE: "I am the slave not of the 'idea' that others have of me but of my own appearance."

SOURCE: Fanon: "The Fact of Blackness" pg. 191

QUOTE: What! When it was I who had every reason to hate, to despise, I was rejected? When I should have been begged, implored, I was denied the slightest recognition?

SOURCE: Fanon 191 "The Fact of Blackness"

QUOTE: Man can think of himself without woman. She cannot think of herself without man.

SOURCE: Simone de Beauvoir, From The Second Sex, pg. 182

QUOTE: A man is in the right being a man; it is the woman who is in the wrong.

SOURCE: The Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir, page 182

QUOTE: "To decline to accept such notions as the eternal feminine, the black soul, the Jewish character, is not to deny that Jews, Negroes, women exist today -- this denial does not represent a liberation for those concerned, but rather a flight from reality."

SOURCE: Simon de Beauvoir, from The Second Sex