

Women & Science Fiction: The Otherwise Award (formerly known as Tiptree) Authors



"A strong woman is a woman determined to do something others are determined not be done."
—Marge Piercy

This course is a special topic, 3 credit seminar featuring major women science fiction authors who have won or been nominated for Otherwise awards. The final goal: to present a paper at WisCon, the women & science fiction "con"-ference held every year in Madison, Wisconsin, where the Otherwise award is presented OR to create an Otherwise-style conference locally and donate proceeds to the national con. All papers will be written as conference style papers; it will be optional to propose and present the papers at the Con as a panel. We will begin with short stories, read several novels, and explore drama/film adaptations of two Otherwise texts.

From the Otherwise website: "In February of 1991 at WisCon (the world's only feminist-oriented science fiction convention), award-winning SF author Pat Murphy announced the creation of the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, an annual literary prize for science fiction or fantasy that **expands or explores our understanding of gender.**" The website explains the origin of the name as for "Alice B. Sheldon, who wrote under the pseudonym James Tiptree, Jr. By her impulsive choice of a masculine pen name, Sheldon helped break down the imaginary barrier between 'women's writing' and 'men's writing.'"

Major themes we will explore will include the definitions of gender within texts by male and female authors, authorial voice, the apocalyptic text, feminism— second and third wave.

Grades:

10%:	Weekly Scholarly Student report. (Each week, a student will present a summary of a work of scholarly criticism about one of these authors, texts, or themes.
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10%	Daily reading journal, due every two weeks
20%	Proposal & annotated bibliography
40%	Conference Style paper
10%	Presentation w/Media
10%	Participation/Attendance

Required Texts:

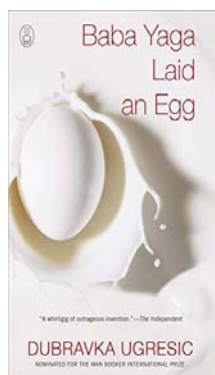
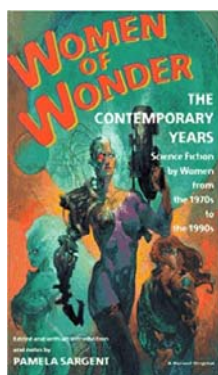
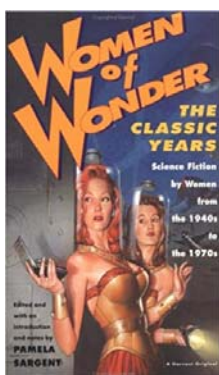
Sargent, Pamela. *Women of Wonder: The Classic Years*. Harvest:1995

Sargent, Pamela. *Women of Wonder: The Contemporary Years*. Harcourt:1995

Baba Yaga Laid an Egg, by Dubravka Ugrešić. Grove Press: 2011.

Russell, Mary Doria. *The Sparrow*. Ballantine, 1997.

Johnson, Kij. *Fudoki*. Tor: 2004.



Reading Schedule:

Week One: *WoW Classic*, "Introduction" By Pamela Sargent & "The Women Men Don't See" and "The Girl Who Was Plugged In" by James Tiptree, Jr.

Week Two: "False Dawn" By Chelsea Quinn Yarbro & "The Heat Death of the Universe" By Pamela Zoline,

Week Three: "Of Mist, and Grass, and Sand" By Vonda McIntyre & "Nobody's Home" Joanna Russ & "The Glass Bottle Trick" by Nalo Hopkinson

Week Four: *WoW Contemporary*, "Introduction," By Pamela Sargent & Pat Murphy "Rachel in Love"

Week Five: "The Thaw" By Tanith Lee & "The Cabinet of Edgar Allan Poe" By Angela Carter & "Judging the Tiptree," by Suzy McKee Charnas

Week Six: Kit Reed "The Food Farm" & "Song of Bullfrogs, Cry of Geese" Nicola Griffith.

Online at: <http://infinityplus.co.uk/stories/songof.htm>

Week Seven: *Baba Yaga Laid an Egg*, Dubravka Ugrešić

Week Eight: *The Sparrow* Mary Doria Russell

Week Nine: *Fudoki* Kij Johnson

Week Ten: Selections from the series, *The Handmaid's Tale*, from the novel by Margaret Atwood

Week Eleven: movie, *The Screwfly Solution*: from the short story by James Tiptree

Extended Reading List:

Armitt, Lucie, ed. *Where No Man Has Gone Before: Women and Science Fiction*. London: Routledge, 1991.

Barr, Maureen. *Lost in Space: Probing Feminist Science Fiction and Beyond*. UNC Press: 1993.

Freedman, Carl. *Critical Theory and Science Fiction*. Hanover: Wesleyan University Press, 2000.

Haraway, Donna. "A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism for the 1980s." 1985. Rpt. in *Feminism/Postmodernism*. Ed. Linda J. Nicholson. New York: Routledge, 1990. 190-233.

Haraway, Donna. "The Promise of Monsters: A Regenerative Politics for Inappropriate/d Others." *Cultural Studies*. Eds. Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, Paula A. Treichler. New York: Routledge, 1992.

Lefanu, Sarah. *To Write Like a Women: Feminism and Science Fiction*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Le Guin, Ursula K. *Dancing at the Edge of the World: Thoughts on Words, Women, Places*. New York: Grove Press, 1989.

Roberts, Dorothy. "Race, Gender, and Genetic Technologies: A New Reproductive Dystopia." *Signs*. 34:4 (Summer 2009): 783-804.

Roberts, Robin. "Post-Modernism and Feminist Science Fiction." *Science Fiction Studies* 17 (1990): 136-152. <https://adanewmedia.org/2013/11/issue3-sheldon/>

Sheldon, R. "Somatic Capitalism: Reproduction, Futurity, and Feminist Science Fiction." *Ada: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*: 3. 2013.

Staicar, Tom, ed. *The Feminine Eye: Science Fiction and the Women Who Write It*. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., Inc., 1982.

Weinbaum, Alys Eve. *Wayward Reproductions: Genealogies of Race and Nation in Transatlantic Modern Thought*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

Wolmark, Jenny. *Cybersexualities: A Reader in Feminist Theory, Cyborgs and Cyberspace*. Edinburgh University Press, 2000.