Midterm Exam Potential Quotations List  
Fall 2010—Dr. Halbert

The following quotes were submitted by the class as candidates for the exam. The ten quotes on the exam will come from this list. You will need to identify the author, the title, and give an explanation of the significance of five of them. If you can identify the author and title of other quotes, you may do so for extra credit.

QUOTE: “With infinite complacency men went to and fro over this globe about their little affairs, serene in their assurance of their empire over matter.”
SOURCE: H.G. Wells - The War of the Worlds

QUOTE: No 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 as 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. The War of the Worlds Pg. 19

QUOTE: The intellectual side of man already admits that life is an incessant struggle for existence, and it would seem that this too is the belief of the minds upon Mars.
SOURCE: H.G. Wells - The War of the Worlds- P20

QUOTE: “It seems to me now almost incredibly wonderful that, with that swift fate hanging over us, men could go about their petty concerns as they did. I remember how jubilant Markham was at securing a new photograph of the planet for the illustrated paper he edited in those days.”
SOURCE: H.G. Wells, War of the Worlds, P23

QUOTE: I’ve watched through his eyes, I’ve listened through his ears, and I tell you he’s the one.
SOURCE: Ender’s Game, By Orson Scott Card, First Starscape Edition. Page 1

QUOTE: “Sometimes lies are more dependable than the truth.”
SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender’s Game, CH1P2

QUOTE: There’s only one thing that will make them stop hating you. And that’s being so good at what you do that they can’t ignore you.
SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender’s Game, pg. 35

QUOTE: T Perhaps it’s called the end of the world because it’s the end of games, because I can go to one of the villages and become one of the little boys working and playing there, with nothing to kill and nothing to kill me, just living there.
SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, *Ender’s Game*, pg. 54

QUOTE: As he thought of it, though, he could not imagine what just living might actually be. He had never done it in his life. But he wanted to do it anyway.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card. Ender's Game. Pg. 74

QUOTE: He kept remembering how it felt to kill the snake, grinding it in, the way he tore the ear off that boy, the way he destroyed Stilton, the way he broke Bernard’s arm. And then to stand up, holding the corpse of his enemy, and find Peter’s face looking out at him from the mirror. This game knows too much about me. This game tells filthy lies. I am not Peter. I don’t have murder in my heart.

Orson Scott Card, *Ender’s Game* 84

QUOTE: I’m your tool, and what difference does it make if I hate the part of me that you most need? What difference does it make that when the little serpents in the game killed me, I agreed with them, and I was glad.

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, Ender’s Game, chapter 8, 119
QUOTE: “There would be no elaborate formation to accept the surrender of the army. This had not been a fair fight, even though they had won – the teachers had meant them to lose, and it was only Bonzo’s ineptitude that had saved them.”

SOURCE: Ender’s Game pg.194

QUOTE: “After all, no matter what happened, you were not certified as the winner unless you had enough unfrozen soldiers to touch the corners of the gate and pass someone through into the enemy’s corridor. Therefore, by one way of thinking, you could argue that the ending ritual was victory. The battleroom certainly recognized it as the end of the game.”


QUOTE: believe me, there's a century of discussion on this very subject. Nobody knows the answer. When it comes down to it, though, the real decision is inevitable: If one of us has to be destroyed, let's make damn sure we're the ones alive at the end. Our genes won't let us decide any other way. Nature can't evolve a species that hasn't a will to survive. Individuals might be born to sacrifice themselves, but the race as a whole can never decide to cease to exist.


QUOTE: “‘Remember, the enemy’s gate is down.’”

SOURCE: Orson Scott Card, *Ender’s Game* (p.293)

QUOTE: “Humanity does not ask us to be happy. It merely asks us to be brilliant on its behalf. Survival first, then happiness as we can manage it.”
SOURCE: *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, Chapter 14 pg. 277

QUOTE: “Like a gun, like the Little Doctor, functioning perfectly but not knowing what you were aimed at. *We* aimed you. We’re responsible. If there was something wrong, we did it.”


QUOTE: How were we to know? We could live with you in peace. Believe us, believe us, believe us.


QUOTE: “‘I see into your minds, you see,’” the robot continued, “‘and you have no idea how complicated they are. I can’t begin to understand everything because my mind has so little in common with them – but I try, and your novels help.’”


QUOTE: It’s your fiction that interests me. Your studies of the interplay of human motives and emotions—

SOURCE:. Isaac Asimov, "Liar!" Page 285

QUOTE: “‘I can’t begin to understand everything because my own mind has too little in common with them – but I try, and your novels help.’”


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

SOURCE: Isaac Asimov. "Liar!" Pg. 293

QUOTE: We waited side by side in front of the simulator console, watching the time display in the screen's lower left corner.

“Go for it,” I said, when it was time, but Bobby was already there, leaning forward to drive the Russian program into its slot with the heel of his hand. He did it with the tight grace of a kid slamming change into an arcade game, sure of winning and ready to pull down a string of free games.


QUOTE: “But now when I see her sometimes when I’m trying to sleep, I see her somewhere out on the edge of all this sprawl of cities and smoke, and it’s like she’s a hologram stuck behind my eyes, in a bright dress she must’ve worn once, when I knew her, something that doesn’t quite reach her knees.”
SOURCE: William Gibson, “Burning Chrome” (p. 375)

QUOTE: She spent hours jacked into that unit, the contact band across her forehead like a gray plastic tiara.

SOURCE: William Gibson, “Burning Chrome”, P381

QUOTE: “He had the kind of uniform good looks you get after your seventh trip to the surgical boutique; he’d probably spend the rest of his life looking vaguely like each new season’s media front-runner; not too obvious a copy, but nothing too original either.”

SOURCE: “Burning Chrome” by William Gibson, Masri pg. 381

QUOTE: What better way to fool a man, by his own emotions.

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman, “When I Was Miss Dow”, P86

QUOTE: “I come to the conclusion that there’s a limit to how much truth I can examine, and the more I submit myself to the conditions necessary for examining it, the more unhappy I become.”

SOURCE: When I Was Miss Dow” by Sonya Dorman, Masri pg. 91

QUOTE: I begin to suffer a peculiar pain, located in the nerve cluster between my lungs. He's not talking to me. He's not caressing me. He's forgotten I'm here, and like a false projection I'm begging to fade. In another hour perhaps the film will become blank. If he doesn't see me, then am I here?

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman, “When I Was Miss Dow”, P92

QUOTE: “I scratched two plus two equals four on the ground, and demonstrated it with pebbles. Again Tweel caught the idea, and informed me that three plus three equals six. Once more we seemed to be getting somewhere.”


QUOTE: “‘Oh, he wasn’t an intellectual superman, I guess; but don’t overlook the point that he managed to understand a little of my mental workings, and I never even got a glimmering of his.’”

SOURCE: Stanley G. Weinbaum, “A Martian Odyssey” (p. 40)

QUOTE: “Because I’m a chemist. 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, and even the biopods are carbon life; this thing lived by a different set of chemical reactions. It was silicon life!”

QUOTE: “Well how about the Language? I couldn’t pick up a single idea of his and he learned six or seven words of mine. And do you realize what complex ideas he put over with no more than those six or seven words? The pyramid-monster—the dream-beast! In a single phrase he told me that was a harmless automaton and the other a deadly hypnotist. What about that?”

SOURCE: Stanley G. Weinbaum. *A Martian Odyssey* Pg. 46

QUOTE: What could I do? I'd be a goner anyway when the sun set, but I couldn't explain that to him. I said Thanks, Tweel. You're a man! and felt that I wasn't paying him any compliment at all. A man! There are mighty few men who'd do that.

SOURCE: Stanley G. Weinbaum. "A Martian Odyssey." Pg. 51

QUOTE: She grasped the rifle barrel, but I wouldn't let go. I was pulled into a standing position over her. “Leave it here!” I repeated. “If we're not your animals, if these are adult things, accept the risk. There is risk, Gatoi, in dealing with a partner.”

SOURCE: Octavia E. Butler, “Bloodchild"

QUOTE: “I had been told all my life that this was a good and necessary thing Tlic and Terran did together—a kind of birth. I had believed it until now. I knew birth was painful and bloody, no matter what. But this was something else, something worse. And I wasn’t ready to see it. Maybe I never would be. Yet I couldn’t not see it. Closing my eyes didn’t help.”


QUOTE: I felt the familiar sting, narcotic, mildly pleasant. Then the blind probing of her ovipositor. The puncture was painless, easy. So easy going in. She undulated slowly against me, he muscles forcing the egg from her body to mine.

SOURCE: Octavia E. Butler, “Bloodchild", P133”

QUOTE: ...and I suspect the whole bloody shooting setup. Somethings wrong here, and I'm not leaving the ship until I know what it is.

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, “Mars is Heaven!”

QUOTE: There are many people who are of good faith without such proof, Mr. Hinkston.

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, “Mars is Heaven!””, P76

QUOTE: “How long you been here, Grandma?” said Lustig. “A good many years,” she said, tartly. “Ever since we died.”

SOURCE: Ray Bradbury, "Mars is Heaven!", pg. 81

QUOTE: “’’Is this Heaven?’” asked Hinkston.
“Nonsense, no. It’s a world and we get a second chance. Nobody told us why. But then nobody told us why we were on Earth, either. That other Earth, I mean. The one you came from. How do we know there wasn’t another one before that one?”
“A good question,” said the captain.

SOURCE: "Mars is Heaven!" by Ray Bradbury, *Masri* pg. 82

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, just for 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.”


QUOTE: Arnie is, in his way, like my original self, and I hate that part of him, since I’ve given that up to be Martha.

SOURCE: Sonya Dorman, "When I Was Miss Dow"

QUOTE: But when he finds himself in lightless or confined spaces, something in the animal core of Meyer Landsman convulses. No one but his ex-wife knows it, but Detective Meyer Landsman is afraid of the dark.

SOURCE: Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, 10

QUOTE: He walked with his head down, a hunch in his shoulders, as if only burrowing through this world on his inexplicable way from one strange dimension to the next.

SOURCE: Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, 30

QUOTE: “He likes the leash,” Mrs. Kalushiner says. “Without it, he doesn't sleep.”

SOURCE: Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, P78

QUOTE: He goes to the front door and lets in the dog, who climbs back up onto the stage to the place where he has worn away the paint on the floorboards, and sits, ears raised to catch the sound of a vanished horn, waiting patiently for the leash to be restored.

SOURCE: Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*, pg. 81

QUOTE: “We are taught by the Baal Shem Tov, of blessed memory, that a man with the potential to be Messiah is born into every generation. This is the Tzaddik Ha-Dor. Now, Mendel. Mendele, Mendele.”


QUOTE: “Not that I’m religious man, God know,” Dick puts in. “But I feel compelled to point out that the Messiah already came, and you bastards fucking killed the motherfucker.”
SOURCE: Michael Chabon. *Yiddish Policeman Union* Pg.151

QUOTE: His own chopped Model 39 is more than enough sholtem for the job.


QUOTE: “‘They call that Zugzwang,’ Landsman says. ‘Forced to move.’ It means Black would be better off if he could just pass.”


QUOTE: “…but tell me, please, if the country of India were being canceled, and in two months, along with everyone you loved, you were going to be tossed into the jaws of the wolf with nowhere to go and no one to give a fuck, and half the world had just spent the past thousand years trying to kill Hindus, don’t you think you might take up drinking?”

SOURCE: Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policeman’s Union* (p. 277)

QUOTE: “He sets his hat on the back of his head and purses his lips. He takes several backward steps away from the fence, and hikes up his trouser legs. Slowly at first, he lopes toward the fence. And then to Landsman's horror, shock, and mild elation, Berko Leaps. His bulk leaves the ground. He sticks out one leg and hooks the other behind him. His trouser cuffs pull back to reveal green socks and pale shins. Then he comes down, with a gust of exhalation, on the other side of the fence. He staggers under his own impact, then plunges forward into the world of cows.

“What the fuck,” Lansdman says.

“Technically, I have to arrest him now,” says Dick.

SOURCE:

Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*, P293-294

QUOTE: Strange times to be a jew


QUOTE: “The certainty he had felt down on the dock that Shpilman would serve their needs was turned abruptly on its head. A man like Shpilman, a talent like Shpilman’s, could never serve anyone; it could only be served, above all by the one who wielded it.”


QUOTE: All over town, pious hands will clip it and tape it to their front doors and windows. They will frame it and hang it behind their counters of their shops. Some hustler, inevitably, will work the thing up as a full-size poster, two feet by three. The hilltop in Jerusalem, crowded with alleys and houses. The broad empty mesa of paving stone. The jagged jawbone of burnt teeth.
The magnificent plume of black smoke. And at the bottom the legend in blue letters, AT LAST! These posters will sell at the stationers' for between ten dollars and $12.95.

SOURCE: Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*, P358

QUOTE: And already I am being dissected under white eyes, the only real eyes. I am fixed. Having adjusted their microtomes, they objectively cut away slices of my reality. I am laid bare. I feel, I see in those white faces that it is not a new man who has come in, but a new kind of man, a new genus. Why it’s a Negro!


QUOTE: “Otherness is a fundamental category of human thought.”

SOURCE: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (p. 182)

QUOTE: And she is simply what man decrees, thus she is called "the sex" by which is meant that she appears essentially to the male as a sexual being for him she is sex –absolute sex, no less”

SOURCE: Simone de Beauvoir - The Second Sex - P182

QUOTE: “The proletariat can propose to massacre the ruling class, and a sufficiently fanatical Jew or Negro might dream of getting the sole possession of the atomic bomb and making humanity wholly Jewish or black; but woman cannot even dream of exterminating the males.”

SOURCE: From *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir, *Masri* pg. 184

QUOTE: “Single vision produces worse illusions than double vision or many headed monsters.”

SOURCE: Donna Haraway, “The Cyborg Manifesto"

QUOTE: "The cyborg does not dream of community on the model of the organic family, this time without the oedipal project. The cyborg would not recognize the Garden of Eden; it is not made of mud and cannot dream of returning to dust."


QUOTE: The second leaky distinction is between animal-human (organism) and machine. Pre-cybernetic machines could be haunted; there was always the spectre of the ghost in the machine. The dualism structured the dialogue between materialism and idealism that was settled by a dialectical progeny, called sprit or history, according to taste. But basically, machines were not self-moving, self-designing, autonomous. They could not achieve man’s dream, only mock it.

SOURCE: Donna J. Haraway, “A Cyborg Manifesto,”, 459
QUOTE: The political struggle is to see from both perspectives at once because each reveals both dominations and possibilities unimaginable from the other vantage point.


QUOTE: “To praise a historian for his accuracy is like praising an architect for using well-seasoned timber or properly mixed concrete in his building. It is a necessary condition of his work, but not his essential function.”


QUOTE: Facts alone are wanted in life.


QUOTE: “…accuracy is a duty, not a virtue.”


QUOTE: The facts speak only when the historian calls on them: it is he who decides to which facts to give the floor, and in what order or context. It was, I think, one of Pirandello’s characters who said that a fact is like a sack- it won’t stand up until you’ve put something in it. The only reason why we are interested to know that the battle was fought at Hastings in 1066 is that Historians regarding it as a major historical event.


QUOTE: History cannot be written unless the historian can achieve some kind of contact with the mind of those about whom he is writing

QUOTE: “Of course, facts and documents are essential to the historian. But do not make a fetish of them. They do not by themselves constitute history; they provide in themselves no ready-made answer to this tiresome question: What is history?”


QUOTE: Collingwood, in his reaction against “scissors-and-paste history,” against the view of history as a mer compilation of facts, comes perilously near to treating history as something spun out of the human brain, and leads back to the conclusion referred to by Sir George Clark in the passage which I quoted earlier, that “There is no 'objective' historical truth.”

QUOTE: This amounts to total skepticism, like Froude's remark that history is "a child's box of letters with which we can spell any word we please."

SOURCE: E.H Carr- “The Historian and His Facts,” P682