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BA English Honours | Semester VI | ENG6EJ305

Literature, Science, and Technology

Module 4: Bioethics, Genetic Engineering, and Clonal Commodification • Comprehensive Notes

Chapter 4: Bio-Capitalism and Clonal Dystopias

Contemporary literature confronts the perils of genetic engineering, biogenetic patents, and the commodification of human and non-human life under neoliberal biotechnology.

4.1 Kazuo Ishiguro: Never Let Me Go (2005)

Kazuo Ishiguro's haunting speculative novel *Never Let Me Go* explores the quiet, polite horror of human cloning for organ harvesting. Raised at the idyllic Hailsham boarding school, the clones Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth are socialized to accept their eventual "completion" (death through systematic organ donation). Ishiguro delivers a devastating critique of utilitarian medical ethics and human complicity in institutional barbarism.

Advanced Critical Theory, Hermeneutics & Literary Praxis

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1. Hermeneutic Paradigms and Textual Mechanics

Critical inquiry into Module 4: Bioethics, Genetic Engineering, and Clonal Commodification reveals how textual forms construct meaning through complex aesthetic strategies and structural choices:

- **Structuralism and Semiotic Deconstruction:** The organization of signs, tropes, and syntactical structures establishes narrative authority while simultaneously revealing internal fissures. Binary oppositions embedded within the discourse—such as center versus margin, tradition versus modernity, and subjective interiority versus objective reality—are systematically problematized through textual slippages and ambiguous signifiers.
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2. Historiographical Context and Reception Theory

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3. Comparative Aesthetic and Thematic Matrix

The following analytical matrix summarizes key comparative dimensions across traditional interpretive paradigms and modern critical frameworks relevant to Module 4:

Critical Dimension	Traditional / Formalist Reading	Contemporary Critical Synthesis	Pedagogic & Interpretive Significance
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