COURSE DETAIL

NONHUMAN WRITING
Country Ireland
Host Institution Trinity College Dublin
Program(s) Trinity College Dublin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) English
UCEAP Course Number 150
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title NONHUMAN WRITING
UCEAP Transcript Title NONHUMAN WRITING
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.70

Course Description

Nowadays, writing is generally seen as one of the great human inventions. But the notion that writing was invented by humans has not at all times been self-evident and accepted. For long periods of history, writing was seen as a domain of the gods and of their representatives. In diverse traditions, letters were thought to have preceded the creation of the world. By some, the whole act of creation was conceived as a form of writing, and therefore signatures were thought to be embedded in all creatures. Some aspects of this tradition have been perpetuated even after the secularizations of modernity: there are still discourses that refer to writing without a human writer and without a human reader. The world is still thought to be full of nonhuman entities (animals, plants and anorganic matter) that leave traces and inscriptions for other nonhuman entities to read. A prominent example is the “deciphered” genetic code. Machines obviously also have learned to read and write to one another. Furthermore, psychoanalysis has asserted that the human psyche engages in writing and reading procedures of which the human subject is unaware. In this seminar, students read and discuss literary and theoretical texts that engage with these nonhuman forms of writing (and that sometimes even claim some kind of “nonhuman” status for themselves).

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ENU33023

Host Institution Course Title
NONHUMAN WRITING

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.tcd.ie/English/undergraduate/sophister/js-module-descriptions-2022-...

Host Institution Campus
Trinity College Dublin

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department English
Course Last Reviewed 2022-2023

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