COURSE DETAIL

CYBORGS, ANDROIDS, AND AIS: RE-IMAGINING THE HUMAN

Country
Germany

Host Institution
Free University of Berlin

Program(s)
Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Film & Media Studies English

UCEAP Course Number
124

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
CYBORGS, ANDROIDS, AND AIS: RE-IMAGINING THE HUMAN

UCEAP Transcript Title
REIMAGING THE HUMAN

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description

At the end of the 20th century, several scholars famously pronounced that society had become "posthuman" (N. Katherine Hayles) and that "we are cyborgs" (Donna Haraway). Two and a half decades later, this diagnosis seems even more accurate: cyborgs, androids, and artificial intelligence populate literature and film; 'cyborg' technology in medicine can replaces limbs, organs, and senses; and artificial intelligence assists humans in various ways in their daily lives, from applications in their phones to digital assistants and chatbots. What are the implications of these developments for a traditional understanding of the human and the relationship between humans and machines? How do these transformations impact ideas about, and representations of, the human body and embodiment? What ethical and socio-political issues are at stake? The course explores these questions with the help of theoretical approaches from the fields of Posthumanism, Gender Studies and Critical Race Studies, as well as literary texts and films. Students read two contemporary novels – Jeanette Winterson's *Frankisssstein* (2019) and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* (2021) – and watch two films – Alex Garland's *Ex Machina* (2014) and Ridley Scott's *Prometheus* (2012). They also have a chat with Chat GPT.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
17362

Host Institution Course Title
CYBORGS, ANDROIDS, AND AIS: RE-IMAGINING THE HUMAN

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Institut für Englische Philologie

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