

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 replace 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 *Frankissstein* (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 Course Details

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/937941?query=VS-Culture%20-%20Gender%20-%20Me...>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Institut für Englische Philologie

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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