

Posthumanism in Contemporary Popular Culture and Film

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In this course, we will explore the question of "the posthuman," which has come to the forefront of popular culture and many academic disciplines around the destination of the human in advanced capitalist and technological societies globally. The question that we will ask is why the post human has emerged in the contemporary cultural moment to represent a future that, in some respects, has already happened--the question of how we actually (already) became post human?

I. Readings & Schedule (all readings are in course reader)

- G. Deleuze, "Postscript on Control Society"
- N. Kathryn Hayles, *How we Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics* (University of Chicago, 1999) – in course reader [students may also purchase on Kindle]
- Donna Haraway, selected from *Cyborg Manifesto*
- Lacan, selected from *Ecrits*

➤ Week One: July 3rd - July 7th *Who is Human?*

- Films: *A.I.--Artificial Intelligence* (2001)
- Readings: Hayles (excerpts); Lacan, "Mirror Stage..." (course reader)

➤ Week Two: July 10th - July 14th *Who is Post human?*

- Films: *Ex-Machina* (2015); *Matrix Reloaded* (2008); *Bladerunner* (1982)
- Readings: Hayles, Ch. 7; Lacan, "Aggressiveness...."; Deleuze, "Postscript on Control Society" (course reader)

➤ Week Three: July 17th - July 21st *Paranoid vs. Schizo Posthumanism*

- Films: *Bladerunner 2049* (2017); *Lucy* (2014), *Ghost in the Shell* (2016).
- Readings: Haraway (course reader)

II. Course Policy, Assignments, and Final Grade:

- Lectures:
 - The course is structured to consist of lectures and film viewing for Mondays and Tuesdays.
 - The lectures will be based on the course reader and films listed in the syllabus.
- Minute Papers: After every lecture on Monday and Tuesday students must submit what's called "The Minute Paper."
 - The form for this in class assignment is attached to this course guideline.
 - The minute papers must be submitted to the TA by 21:00.

- Two minute papers are due for each weeks one and two (6 total).
- Weekly Film: Wednesdays will be reserved to show most of the weekly assigned film in class. Students may also use this time to confer and conference with TA on the PPT assignment.
- PPT Presentations: On Thursday of week one and two, students will give a five-minute oral presentation upon the reading and the film using one (1) PPT slide.
 - Students must send their slides to the above e-mail by no later than Wednesday, before midnight.
 - Students are allowed to use other films and media as reference to their presentations—e.g., Korean Films, video games, etc..
 - There is no standard format for the ppt presentation, but the time should be kept within 5minutes.
- Response Lecture: On Friday of weeks 1-2, the professor will give us a response lecture based on the student ppt presentations and one-minute papers submitted that week. Fridays will be used for wrapping up discussion of that week’s readings and films, and for viewing portions of the second assigned films.
- Student Conference: On the last Wednesday and Thursday, a student conference on “Posthumanism and Contemporary Culture” will be held during the class sessions.
 - The final assignment is to create a Wiki page entry on the theme “Posthumanism and Contemporary Culture.”
 - The assignment should be no more than 2 pages single-spaced, and formatted according to Wikipedia guidelines; the inclusion of visual media is required
- Final Grade: The grading for this course will be based on these assignments:
 - Oral PPT presentation for weeks 1 and 2
 - Conference presentation
 - “The Minute Papers”
 - Wiki Page
- Attendance: *The attendance policy for this course is in accordance with GC.*
 - More than three absences will automatically lead you to failing this course.
 - For emergencies or tardiness, please consult with the TA, who will inform me and the GC office. .