Introduction to Posthumanist Thought

Syllabus

Instructor
Andre Uhl, PhD

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Modality
remote learning

Quarter: Autumn 2023
Start – end date: September 27 – November 15
Session day/time: Wednesdays, 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Course Code and Section: KNOW11023-23A1

Course Overview

This course surveys the emergence of posthumanist thought as an intellectual movement in contemporary critical theory. We will explore the work of scholars who renegotiate the human condition via critical inquiry into posthuman desires and our complicated relationship with non-human ‘others’—from animals, plants, and micro-organisms to waste and toxins, artificial life, and hyperobjects. By engaging diverse viewpoints that map the stakes of a non-anthropocentric politics of culture, we will reflect on the capacity of the arts and humanities to decipher shifting notions of agency, identity, and belonging in more-than-human worlds.

Recommended Readings

Digital copies of all weekly course readings will be posted on Canvas—no book purchase or prior knowledge is required to participate. However, if you would like to get oriented ahead of the fall quarter, the following books provide an excellent introduction to the intellectual premises within which our readings will be situated:


These (completely optional) readings can be purchased online through the University of Chicago Bookstore.
# Course Schedule and Required Readings

*All readings will be provided as digital copies via Canvas.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Braidotti, Rosi</td>
<td><strong>A Theoretical Framework for the Critical Posthumanities.</strong> Theory, Culture &amp; Society, 36(6), 31–61, 2019. [selections]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Hayles, Katherine</td>
<td><strong>How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics.</strong> Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. [selections]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Haraway, Donna Jeanne</td>
<td><strong>Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene.</strong> Durham: Duke University Press, 2016. [selections]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Kohn, Eduardo</td>
<td><strong>How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human.</strong> Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. [selections]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Morton, Timothy</td>
<td><strong>Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology After the End of the World.</strong> Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. [selections]</td>
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## Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit [https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts](https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts). Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: [https://canvas.uchicago.edu](https://canvas.uchicago.edu).
Accessibility information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

UChicago CARES Statement:

The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered “Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities” and are required to let the University’s Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see this handout for students as well as the University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct and Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment. You can also reach out directly for services and support from the Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.