

PHIL3652
Topics in Contemporary Western Philosophy
Introduction to Philosophy of Technology and Posthumanism
Course Outline

Time : T 12:30pm-3:15pm

Location :

LHC 101

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

The course aims at an in-depth study of selected works of contemporary Western philosophy. Topics may include: Positivism, Structuralism, Neo-Kantianism, Process Philosophy, British Idealism, American Pragmatism, and other contemporary philosophers such as Frege, G. E. Moore, Russell, Wittgenstein, and Quine. Offerings with different subtitles can be taken up for credit, up to a maximum of two times.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Acquire knowledge of the selected topics of the course.
2. Have a solid grasp of the philosophical issues of the selected topics of the course.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own.

Topics

Philosophy of Technology

Humanism

Posthumanism

Film

Phenomenology

Postphenomenology

Media

Embodiment

Science-fiction

Utopia

Learning activities

Each meeting will consist of a lecture followed by a period of discussion and students' presentations. Please attend lectures and participate in class discussions. Each lesson is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Essays		50%
Presentation		30%
Short answer test or exam		20%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

1. Essays

The essay should discuss a philosophical problem or question in one or more of the texts that we have read together and clearly explicate that problem. Following the explication of the problem, students should discuss it within the context of research literature and explain its relevance for the philosophical discussion. The term paper requires students to consult and cite at least two works of secondary literature (which have to be research by the students) in addition to the required readings. The term paper should *not* be more than 6-8 double spaced pages

2. Presentation:

It is required that every student gives a presentation of 20-30 minutes on an assigned text or topic. The presentation should be structured the following way: Please divide the topic in 3-4 parts. Give an introduction to each part and then prepare 2-3 questions for the group to discuss together. Everything that is unclear can be discussed in the lesson. It will not diminish your grade, if you are uncertain about certain arguments. The presentation is a means to structure our discussion and for me to see, what needs to be explained. Presentations will either be assigned to groups or individuals, depending on number of participants.

3. Short Answer Test

Each lesson will be started by a 10-minute summary of the week before. Students responsible for this will be assigned during the session and need to prepare for the coming week.

4. Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*. Two unexcused absences are permitted. For each unexcused absence beyond two, one-half a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. In case of emergencies, either notify me of your absence ahead of time, or plan to bring some formal documentation of your absence. Without documentation, I will not accept absences as excused.

5. Late Work/Make-Ups:

Every day the paper is late, one half a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for the assignment. If you would like a grade changed, you must provide me with a detailed written argument for why you think it should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Recommended learning resources

Braidotti, Rosi.(2013), *The Posthuman*. Cambridge: Polity.

Braidotti, Rosi (2006) 'Posthuman, All Too Human. Towards a New Process Ontology', in: *Theory, Culture & Society* Vol. 23(7–8): 197–208.

*Coeckelbergh, Mark (2020), *Introduction to Philosophy of Technology*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Ferrando, Francesca (2019), *Philosophical Posthumanism. Theory in the New Humanities*, London, New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

Hayles, Katherine N. (2014), 'Cognition Everywhere: The Rise of the Cognitive Nonconscious and the Costs of Consciousness', in: *New Literary History* 45, 199–220

Heidegger, M. (1977), 'The Question Concerning Technology', in: *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, trans. W. Lovitt, New York, London: Garland Publishing Inc., 3-35.

LaGrandeur, Kevin (2018), 'Art and the Posthuman', in: *Posthumanism: The Future of Homo Sapiens*, M. Bess and D. Walsh Pasulka (eds.), Macmillan, 377-388

PDF's will be provided. The planned readings can be changed/adjusted according to learning dynamics and discussion.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Teaching Mode</i> <i>Online / in-campus</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Why Philosophy of Technology and Posthumanism?	in-campus	Coeckelbergh, Chapter 9		
2	Technology I: Roots and Mythologies	in-campus	Coeckelbergh, Chapter 2		
3	Technology II: Heidegger	in-campus	Heidegger, Question Concerning Technology		
4	Technology III: Phenomenology and Postphenomenology	in-campus	Coeckelbergh, Chapter 4		
5	Technology IV: Critical Theory	in-campus	Coeckelbergh, Chapter 5		
6	Human Consciousness and Technology	in-campus	Hayles: The Non-Conscious		

7	Utopias and Dystopias of Technology	in-campus	Haraway: Cyborg Manifesto Braidotti: Posthuman, all too Human		
8	Screening	in-campus			
9	Posthumanism I: Beyond Humanism	in-campus	Ferrando, Chapter 1		
10	Posthumanism II: Beyond Anthropocentrism	in-campus	Braidotti, Chapter 2		
11	Posthumanism III: The Arts	in-campus	LaGrandeur, Art and the Posthuman		
12	Open Topic	in-campus			
13	Wrapping it up	in-campus	Discussion of Essay Topics		

Details of course website

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Foerster, Yvonne
Office location:	G26B, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	
Email:	

TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.