Feminist and queer theories have constantly challenged the figure of the white, middle-class, able-bodied, and hetero-normative “man” as the universal human subject. This course further explores the boundaries of “the human” as performative measures for human engagement with the non/human – both non-human others (such as animals and machines) and the others within the human (such as quasi-humans and the non-humanness of humans). We will discuss how the human’s relationships with its others are interlaced with the various forms of difference and of power relations, such as sex/gender, sexuality, race, and disability, as well as capitalism and political ecology. However, we will not adopt the essentialist assumption of shared abjection among women (and other marginalized human groups) and non-human others, but instead interrogate the complex matrix in which these relationships are shaped. For this purpose, the course invites interdisciplinary conversations with posthumanisms, postcolonial criticisms, critical animal studies, and disability studies.

Investigating the problematic of “the human” in relation to “the non/human” necessarily raises the question of representation. Such non/human challenges to the centrality of the linguistic (often a defining measure of human exclusiveness) bear upon and resonate with feminist critiques on language (and the symbolic). In this light, we will reflect on the epistemological and political implications of representation within the production of knowledge at the borders of and relations among human, animal, machine, and other beings.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Students will familiarize themselves with the critiques on the assumed concept of the human and its attendant human-centrism, and the connections to and implications for gender studies in particular and critical theories in general.
- Students will practice creative and critical thinking through transdisciplinary conversations among various discourses including feminist theories, queer theories, eco-criticisms, animal studies, critical disability studies, and postcolonial critiques.
- Students will engage with these theories to re-examine a variety of challenges in the contemporary world, especially those concerning posthuman(ist) phenomena.
- Students will improve their skills in analytic reading and writing, verbal discussion, and other forms of presentation.

**Requirements**

1. **Attendance and Participation (15%)**: Please complete the reading and screening assignment each week, and be prepared for class discussion. Curiosity, humility, generosity, respect, and risk-taking are expected for our collective journey. Attendance is mandatory. Absences due to medical problems must be officially documented. Missing a
class without an official document will negatively affect your grade, and missing more than three classes might result in failing the course.

2. Moodle Posts (25%): You are required to write five posts on the course website (each around 300-500 words) about the texts assigned for the week. Please submit your posts under the corresponding weekly thread by 9pm on Tuesdays (On Week 1, by Wednesday 11pm). The first post should be submitted by Week 2. The website is a space for you to think about the texts, to articulate your questions, interpretations, and critiques, and to share them with other participants. A post is expected to demonstrate your analytic engagement with the texts – more than simple summaries or criticisms based on an already-assumed position of truth and/or justice. You are encouraged to read your colleagues’ posts before we meet. These posts won’t receive extensive written comments, but will be incorporated into class discussions.

3. Final Conference (20%): In the last week of classes, you will give a presentation that is directly relevant to your upcoming final paper. You are welcome to present the work-in-progress that you are developing into the paper. However, you may also present a media, art, or performance project that will be complemented by the paper. The point of the final conference is to share your work and offer collective input into each other’s ongoing projects.

4. Term Paper (40%): You will write a term paper (2500-3000 words) on the topic of your choice related to texts we’ve discussed throughout the course. The term paper is not a standard research paper, and should demonstrate conceptual, methodological, and epistemological engagement with the course materials and discussion.

Course Policies and Logistics

1. Please arrive on time, and turn off or silence all cell phones before class begins (vibration-mode does not constitute turning off). I also have a no-laptop, no-tablet, no-recording policy during class discussions, so that we can fully engage with and pay attention to other participants. However, if you need a laptop (or any other device) for disability-related or other meaningful reasons, you’re welcome to use it; just let me know in advance.

2. Office Hours: I’d like everyone to visit my office hours at least once during the semester, but I welcome and encourage more visits. These meetings are to go over classroom discussions, assignments, and any other concerns or thoughts you might have related to the course. If you come up with an idea for your current or future research during the semester, it would be my pleasure to discuss it. Feel free to come in small groups as well as individually.

3. I’ll be communicating with you by e-mail during the term, and you’re responsible for knowing what is in those emails. You may write me at YoonH@ceu.edu; please use the subject line “[Non/Human]” or there is a good chance that I’ll loose your email.

4. If you have any disability-related needs, please discuss them with me ASAP. Access needs can be shared with the class without shame. We, as a learning community, will try to support each other’s access needs.
Course Schedule

I. Introduction

Week 1. Gathering

9.23  Course Introduction
• Patricia Piccinini, “Gathering” (short film, 2007)

Week 2. How Did We Become Post/Human?


II. Working Frames

Week 3. Representation, Knowledge, and the Other


Week 4. Biopolitics and the Measure of Life


Week 5. Transbiology and Cybernetics

10.23  No Class, Hungarian National Holiday. You are encouraged to watch XXY (film) during the holiday, in preparation for the next week’s discussion.
Week 6. Difference, Becoming, and New-materialisms


10.30 • Lucía Puenzo dir., XXY (film 2007).

III. Crossroads

Week 7. Animals, Robots, and Race

11.4 • Larissa Lai, Automaton Biographies (Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp, 2009), excerpts.

11.6 • Harlan Weaver, “‘Becoming in Kind’: Race, Class, Gender and Nation in Cultures of Dog Rescue and Dog Fighting,” American Quarterly 65.3 (2013).

Week 8. Toxic, Cyborg, Crip


Week 9. Technological HumAnimals and Non/Human Geographies


Week 10. Parasitic Assemblages and FemiQueer Ecologies


11.27 • Michel Serres, The Parasite (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007), excerpts.
IV. Final Conference and Wrap-Up

Week 11. Final Conference (12.2, 12.4)

Week 12. Final Conference (12.9, 12.11)

Final Paper Due on Wednesday, December 16, 2015