



# Short Syllabus

Course Title	Credits
Posthumanism (Seminar)	4
<b>Lecturer</b>	
Dr. Robin Shochat Bagon	
<b>Contact details</b>	
<a href="mailto:robinb@tauex.tau.ac.il">robinb@tauex.tau.ac.il</a>	
<b>Semester</b>	
Fall	
<b>Short Description</b>	
<p>“Man is an invention of recent date” observes Michel Foucault, “and one perhaps nearing its end.” He goes on to note that under the right conditions, “man would be erased, like a face drawn in sand at the edge of the sea.” This course starts from the premise that “man” is a construct which has been invented by the discourses of humanism. We will explore the ways in which the borders of “man” have been secured in opposition to the nonhuman, specifically “animals” and machines, and we will interrogate the effects and consequences of this set of exclusions. Of particular interest will be the violent manner in which nonhumans have been excluded in order to secure the supremacy of the human animal. As with all limits, there is a fascinating contamination and comingling between the human and the nonhuman and we will explore how this dangerous place appears in literature, art, film, television and theory. From the beginning, the human has been dependent on technology and we will chart how technologies, both ancient and modern have both made and unmade the animal that we call the human. By the end of the course, you should have an insight into the fascinating ways in which the human will, perhaps, always have been posthuman.</p>	
<b>Final grade components</b>	
<p>Minor assignments:  Students are required to annotate and post answers on each reading via the online platform Pangea (10%)</p> <p>Midterm:  Short paper (6-8 pages) (30%)</p> <p>Final requirement:  Seminar paper (7000-10000 words) or <i>referat</i> paper (3500-5000 words) (60%)</p>	
<b>Attendance</b>	
<p>Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*</p>	
<b>Academic Conduct</b>	



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Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.\*

## **Final assignment**

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.\*

## **Additional requirements**

While use of laptops is permitted, phones must be kept in bags and use of email, social media etc. is deemed extremely disrespectful to the professor and students and is strictly forbidden.

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\* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details