

ENGL 101.05 BOT OR NOT: TECHNOLOGY, IDENTITY, AUTONOMY

Emily Sherwood

OVERVIEW:

- As society becomes more technologically advanced, questions of what counts as human abound. While the course will engage with texts that focus on artificial intelligence and genetic engineering, we will also consider broader questions of how the digital intersects with and impacts other markers of identity. We will critique the historical and cultural development of digital communities. Of particular concern is the digital divide: how society counts (or discounts) groups that lack sufficient access to technology or those who opt out of the widespread integration of the digital in our daily lives.
- This course will be writing-intensive with a focus on form, revision, and writing for multiple audiences. The majority of class time will be spent in discussion of our texts and working on the writing process.
- Requirements: in-class writing, peer review workshops, annotated bibliography contributions, class participation, hashtag survey, two essays, one digital story.
- Learning Objectives: Drawing on the English Department learning objectives, this course aims to develop students' critical thinking skills so that they may:
 - Analyze a variety of texts and respond to their aesthetic and cultural value
 - Consider question from many different points of views
 - Respond to a wide range of texts and understand their historical and cultural contexts
 - Articulate ideas effectively in discussion and in oral presentations
 - Develop strategies to manage your own writing process
 - Receive and respond to feedback on your writing; provide useful feedback to your peers
 - Write gracefully, coherently, imaginatively, and persuasively, with proper attention to effective organization, form, content, and audience

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the Bucknell Bookstore):

- Philip K. Dick, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* ISBN: 9780345404473
- Margaret Atwood, *Year of the Flood* ISBN: 9780307455475
- [Video available via Moodle](#): *Ex Machina* (2015), *Dollhouse* (2009), *Orphan Black* (2013)
- Various other readings will be provided

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance

- **Regular attendance is required.** If you miss a class, you miss a lot. **After two absences your grade will suffer; excessive absences will result in you failing the course.** I expect you to be in class on time and ready to participate.

Participation

- **Active participation is required.** Come to class prepared and ready to participate. If you are unprepared or do not have the necessary materials (your text, drafts, reviews, etc.), you may be asked to leave. You will be respectful of your fellow classmates. Disruptive behavior—rudeness, talking while others are speaking, or texting during class—may result in me asking you to leave.

- There will be various forms of participation in this class. I recognize that some of you may prefer in-class discussion, while others prefer written discourse. You will be expected to do some of both. Over the semester, you will develop facility in formulating your ideas in both out loud and in writing. To that end:
 - You are required to provide a topic for discussion on a rotating basis throughout the semester. A topic may include a passage that you found interesting or confusing. Similarly, you might want to discuss a particular character or an action that occurs in the text. You may also raise broader issues/questions from the text, or topics that engage with the world more broadly.
 - You are required to contribute to class notes on a rotating basis throughout the semester. This is not to discourage you from taking your own notes or from contributing to class notes when it isn't your day, but rather to allow all of us to contribute to the collective experience and provide a space for questions and comments that we can readily address throughout the semester.
 - Occasionally, you will be live tweeting our class, an event, or while you are watching a video for homework. We will discuss this practice and any privacy concerns you may have prior to your first tweeting assignment.

Reading

- You will notice that the reading for this course is heavy. Please familiarize yourself with the syllabus and the readings and budget your time accordingly.

Film Screenings

- Beyond reading for this course, you will be required to watch [NUMBER TO COME]. I expect that you will use a critical eye when viewing the films, take notes, and write thoughtful and critical reviews (see below). Again, make sure to budget your time accordingly.

Reading Reviews

■

Annotated Bibliography Entries

■

In-Class Writing

- Once a week you will spend the first ten minutes of class writing. You will not be allowed to use your books or secondary reading during the ten minutes; however, you may use any notes you have taken on the reading.
 - Your write-ups should be approximately one page long. Each response will be graded. If you miss the first ten minutes of class you may not make up the writing for that day. Likewise, if you are absent you may not make up the writing for that day (another reason why it is important to attend class and arrive on time). Your in-class writing is not intended to prove that you read the assigned reading and, therefore, should not include a plot summary. I suggest that you focus on a particular detail or question from the reading. What struck you as important or interesting? Were there things about the reading that were confusing (not just “I didn’t get it.”)? This time is not intended as a “free-write” but rather a chance for you to explore an idea or question from the reading.

Final Project

- This course requires either a traditional paper (6–8 pages) or a design proposal for your own hypothetical production. A brief proposal for your project will be due via email **by 8p, Friday, August 5th**. These options will be explained more fully in a separate handout. Your final project

will be due **by midnight, Thursday, August 18th**. Your project must be uploaded to turnitin.com by that date and time, no late projects will be accepted. In order to upload the paper, you will need the **class ID (4134194)** and **password (summer11)**.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Format of Written Work

- All work must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman), with 1-inch margins on all sides.

Plagiarism

- [NEED BLURB]
 - ***Plagiarism is a serious offence.*** Plagiarism includes any representation of another's ideas or work as your own, including the ideas of another student, articles, books, or information from the internet. I take instances of plagiarism seriously. **If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail the assignment.**
 - If you find yourself stuck during the writing process, come and see me. If you have any questions about how to properly cite sources, I'm more than happy to help. Also, the Writing Center has several handouts, including ones on MLA style and how to cite sources properly:
[URL]

Academic Accommodation

- [INCLUDE]

Please note that the syllabus is subject to change.

GRADES:

- Class Participation: 10%
- In-Class Writing: 15%
- Film and Performance Reviews: 20%
- Presentations: 15%
- Research Proposal: 5%
- Research Project: 35%

Date	Readings / Class Topics	Due
8/24 M	Syllabus	
8/26 W		
8/28 F		
8/31 M		
9/2 W		
9/4 F		
9/7 M		
9/9 W		
9/11 F		
9/14 M		
9/16 W		
9/18 F		
9/21 M		
9/23 W		
9/25 F		
9/28 M		
9/30 W		
10/2 F		
10/5 M		
10/7 W		
10/9 F		
10/12 M	No Class – Fall Recess	
10/14 W		Reflection Post Due
10/16 F		
10/19 M		

Date	Readings / Class Topics	Due
10/21 W		
10/23 F		
10/26 M		
10/28 W		
10/30 F		
11/2 M		
11/4 W		
11/6 F		
11/9 M		
11/11 W		
11/13 F		
11/16 M		
11/18 W		
11/20 F		
11/23 – 11/27	Thanksgiving Break	
11/30 M		
12/2 W		
12/4 F		
12/7 M	Last day of Class	