HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
COURSE OUTLINE

1. **COURSE TITLE**

   Posthuman Futures

2. **COURSE CODE**

   HUMN3096

3. **No. OF UNITS**

   3 Units

4. **OFFERING DEPARTMENT**

   Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

5. **PREREQUISITES**

   N.A.

6. **MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION**

   English

7. **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

   What does it mean to be human? In an era of rapid technological advancement and ecological crisis, the boundaries of the human are constantly being contested, modified, and redefined. This course aims at introducing students to key concepts and debates about the posthuman. It encourages students to not only question existing hierarchies of humanness in relation to human-animal and human-machine paradigms, but also interrogate emerging materiality, morality, and ethics in cultural imaginations of the cyborg, AI, biotechnology, and environmental degradation. Through analyses of critical theory, science fiction, film, art, and popular culture, students will learn tools and skills to think critically about the ambiguous nature of the human and its racial, gender, and sexual embodiment. The course will help students develop perspectives on the risks and benefits of being human in technologically mediated futures.

8. **COURSE CONTENT**

   1. What is the Posthuman?
   2. Posthumanism and Transhumanism
   3. Cultural Imaginations of the Cyborg
   4. Man and Machine
   5. Sex and Robots
   6. Material Feminisms
   7. Posthumanism and Race
   8. Techno-Orientalism
   9. Has the Queer Ever Been Human?
   10. Animals and Trans-species Relations

11. Environmental Posthumanism
12. Technophobia/Technophilia
13. Biotechnological Futures

9. **COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (CILOs)**

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the basic definitions and theoretical frameworks of the posthuman, including the differences between posthumanism and transhumanism
CILO 2	Analyse human-nature and human-technology relations in cultural forms, texts, and imaginations
CILO 3	Analyse critically about real-world issues, including the cultural politics of class, race, gender, sexuality, species, and technology based on posthuman frames
CILO 4	Present the thoughts about the ethics, responsibility, and biases in relation to the posthuman condition

10. **TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES (TLAs)**

CILO alignment	Type of TLA
1	Students will be asked to: Attend lectures and classroom discussions to develop arguments about the posthuman
2	Analyse examples and texts in literature, film, art, and popular culture, with a focus on the concepts, politics, and aesthetics of the posthuman
3	Do in-class and take-home assignments to analyse the powers, ideologies, and ethics that characterise human- nonhuman relations
4	Complete research essays to develop the skills of scholarly writing and the ability for independent thinking in posthuman studies

11. **ASSESSMENT METHODS (AMs)**

Type of Assessment Methods	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Class Presentations, and Participation	30%	1,2,3	Active class participation and interactions(15%); Presentation on selected topics(15%)
Take-Home assignments	30%	1,2,3,4	Critical responses to questions that assess students' knowledge about the posthuman and their ability to apply theories to interpret cultural texts and real-world issues
Research Paper	40%	1,2,4	A research essay on a selected topic that test students' ability to make arguments, support arguments with concrete examples, express the contemporary relevance of posthuman thinking, and form judgement about posthuman ethics

END