



MODULE SPECIFICATION


Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Being Human		
Module Code	UPCN9R-30-1	Level	1
For implementation from	September 2017		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	ACE	Field	Cultural Industries
Department	Arts and Cultural Industries		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Liberal Arts		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	n/a		

Part 2: Description
<p>As an idea that we would recognise today, the concept of the human being is a relatively recent one with origins in eighteenth-century Europe. This module explores the development of this concept and some of the uses to which it has been put in historical, literary, cultural, artistic, scientific and political domains, exploring the way it becomes established through what it is defined against (matter, the animal, the machine). In doing so, the module will introduce some of the major currents of European modernisation and the globalising spread of Western industrial modernity through the lens of this concept of the human being and related ideas of humanity, human nature, human rights and so on. Module lectures, seminars and assessments will provide opportunities to uncover this history of the human, its trials and tribulations. The module will look at this history from the vantage point of the contemporary context in which many assumptions about the human have been questioned or reformulated in the light of the digital age, the rise of artificial intelligence and biotechnology, the revival of religious conceptions of the spiritual, neuroscience, epigenetics, and new models of subjectivity which address our creaturely existence or situate the human on a continuum with the biosphere. And it will examine the concept of the human as a contingent entity, defined in terms of dependency, vulnerability, precarity and finite existence.</p> <p>A variety of resources and approaches will be used in conducting this exploration including artistic and literary sources, media forms and science fiction film as well as cultural theory, philosophical and scientific texts. Key questions to be examined revolve around the various ways in which the nature of the human has been understood as an individual being who exists in relation to a collective, and the various disciplines which have been used to mediate or manage these relations in the interests of social cohesion, environmental sustainability and the securing of human futures (from psychology, medicine, social and urban planning, cybernetics, biotechnology. nanoscience etc). The development of 'revolutionary' ideas about universal human rights, the tensions between the individual as psychological subject and her place in the social world of conventions, norms and gendered identity, the identification of individuals with a collective 'identity' such as the nation, the people, heterogeneous publics or communities of believers, whether the individual belongs to a species or a culture: all of</p>

these represent aspects of the question of the human as an individual and as a group. The nature of the human as a being that combines natural and technological characteristics, that is between the animal and the robot, will also be central to the module's investigations.		
Part 3: Assessment		
The first assessment (A1) is a portfolio of written pieces on weekly topics, which develop skills in academic reading, notetaking, the ability to identify arguments, and to understand the interpretation of evidence from primary sources, written and visual, and to begin to develop situated research skills. The essay (A2) furthers these and enables students to learn how to design their own approach to a question, selecting from a range of further readings and identifying a case study to analyse. This process lessens the opportunity for plagiarism as each essay is distinctive to the individual student.		
Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	Component A2	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	100%	
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Portfolio of writing exercises (5 x 500 words)	50%	
2. Essay (2,500 words)	50%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
n/a		
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Portfolio of writing exercises (2,500 words)	50%	
2. Essay (2,500 words)	50%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
n/a		
Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods		
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of human being as a concept with a history whose development has been significant in the cultural, intellectual and political history of Western modernization and globalization (components A1, A2).</p> <p>Demonstrate familiarity with one or more of the major themes explored in the module concerning human being as involving both the individual and the collective dimension of humanity (components A1, A2).</p> <p>Analyse and critically evaluate a variety of artistic, cultural and scholarly works related to the module (components A1, A2).</p> <p>Conduct research using appropriate library resources (component A2).</p>	

Write a properly referenced scholarly essay that evidences critical analysis and argumentation at an appropriate level (component A2).

Key Information Sets Information (KIS)

Key Information Set - Module data				
<i>Number of credits for this module</i>				
				30
Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
300	72	228	0	300
				

Contact Hours

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;

Total Assessment

Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam
Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test
Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)

Total assessment of the module:	
Written exam assessment percentage	0%
Coursework assessment percentage	100%
Practical exam assessment percentage	0%
	100%

Reading List

Appadurai, Arjun (2013) *The Future as Cultural Fact: Essays on the Global Condition*, London: Verso.

Appiah, Kwame Anthony (2006) *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*, London: Penguin.

Bekoff, Marc and Pierce, Jessica (2009) *Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Butler, Judith (2004) *Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence*, London: Verso.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh (2009) 'The Climate of History: Four Theses', *Critical Inquiry*, Vol 35 No 2.

Damasio, Antonio (2000) *The Feeling of What Happens, Body Emotion and the Making of Consciousness*, London: Vintage Books.

Darwin, Charles. 1901 *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*. London: John Murray.

Dixon, Thomas (2008) *The Invention of Altruism: Making Moral Meanings in Victorian Britain*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Freud, Sigmund. 2002. *Civilization and its Discontents*. London: Penguin.

Hacking, Ian (1995) *Rewriting the Soul: Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory*, Princeton New Jersey, Princeton University Press.

Hannah Arendt (1968, Revised Edition) *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*, New York: Viking

Hunt, Lynn (2007) *Inventing Human Rights: A History*, New York and London: Norton & Co, Inc.

Jacobs, Jane (2004) *Dark Age Ahead*, London: Vintage Books.

Lauren Berlant (ed) *Compassion*, New York and London: Routledge.

Moore, Gerald. 2013. "Adapt and Smile or Die! Stiegler among the Darwinists." In *Stiegler and Technics*, edited by Christina Howells and Gerald Moore, 17-33. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Phillips, Adam and Taylor, Barbara (2009) *On Kindness*, London: Hamish Hamilton. Representatives of the French People. 1879. *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen*.available at <http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/declaration.html>

Rose, Nikolas (2007) *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century*, Princeton New Jersey, Princeton University Press.

Sen, Amartya (2006) *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.

Sennet, Richard (2012) *Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Smith, Roger (2007) *Being Human: Historical Knowledge and the Creation of Human Nature*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Stiegler, Bernard and Anaïs Nony. 2015. "Bernard Stiegler on Automatic Society, as told to Anaïs Nony." *The Third Rail Quarterly* 5: 16-17. Accessed December 12, 2016. url: <http://thirdrailquarterly.org/issue-5/>.

Taylor, Barbara (2003) *Mary Wollstonecraft and the Feminist Imagination*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>.

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First CAP Approval Date	9 March 2017 link to MIA		
Revision CAP Approval Date	Version	2	Link to RIA
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