The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Division of Cultural Studies, Department of Cultural and Religious Studies  
M.A. in Intercultural Studies

### Basic Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>CULS 5207</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Approach to Technoscience Culture</td>
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</table>
| Principal lecturer | CHAN Kit Sze Amy  
amykschan@yahoo.com |
| Units           | 3 |
| No. of hours    | 36 |
| Medium of instruction | C&E |
| Pre-requisite   | NO |

### Course Background

This seminar explores the impact of the worldwide technoscience revolution of our era in the cultural context. We are in the midst of the fast developments of technology and science. As witness to this important moment, we have a vantage point to review the cultural impact of technology on social, economic, political development over the past two centuries. As there is now a surge of feminist studies of science and technology, special emphasis will be given to the interrelationship between gender and technoscience.

### Objectives

Through reading of theories by important social critics and philosophers, we will analyse some dominant themes and forms of representation of female in fiction, film and animes from Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1927) to the Japanese animes *Ghost in the Shell* (1995) and *Metropolis* (2003).

Course materials include short stories, films, animes and readings from the Web.

Students are encouraged to complete the assigned readings and movies before attending the lectures. Lecture notes will be posted at least a day before the lecture.

- This course does not require students to have computer skills or knowledge.

- **Presentations.** Students are required to give a 30-45 minute presentation on a specific topic. Should the student fail to deliver the presentation on the pre-assigned week, a written report on the topic (about 2000 words) should be submitted within two weeks.

- **Final Project.** Students are required to write a research essay for a final, individual project. The length of the text should be 12-14 A4 double-spaced typed pages. Students are encouraged to include multimedia content, according to one's ability and interests, in this final project. Submission of this project could be made in electronic form.

- **Notes on Films and Readings.** Students must view the required films and go through the readings BEFORE each class. Students are required to provide their own reading materials due to copyright problems.

- Course Textbook: David Bell's *Introduction to Cybercultures*

- Course Reference book: David Bell's *The Cybercultures Reader* and
# Cyberculture: Key Concepts

## Course Outcomes, Teaching Activities and Assessment

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (TLOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TLO1</th>
<th>state the critical issues of technoscience culture/ cyberculture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TLO2</td>
<td>develop an awareness of how our sense of identity and subjectivity are shaped by technology, science and mass media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO3</td>
<td>analyse the elements tied to the scientific contexts critically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO4</td>
<td>demonstrate an understanding of critical concepts by using concrete examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO5</td>
<td>synthesize critical concepts of technoscience culture and our everyday life practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO6</td>
<td>write critically on a specific issues in the field of technoscience culture studies</td>
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### Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TLA1</th>
<th>introduction of relevant issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TLA2</td>
<td>explanation of critical concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA3</td>
<td>illustration of critical concepts and issues with daily examples and multimedia materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA4</td>
<td>critical reading of the cultural texts with relation to the key concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA5</td>
<td>explanation of required readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA6</td>
<td>in-class discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA7</td>
<td>online discussion on specific topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA8</td>
<td>oral presentations by students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA9</td>
<td>peer comment on presentation and discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLA10</td>
<td>writing of term paper</td>
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**Assessment Tasks (ATs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AT</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT1</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT2</td>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT3</td>
<td>Online discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT4</td>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Alignment of Course Intended Learning Outcomes, Teaching and Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Teaching and Learning Activities</th>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TLO1</td>
<td>TLA1,4,5,6,7</td>
<td>AT1,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO2</td>
<td>TLA1,2,3,4,6,7</td>
<td>AT1,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO3</td>
<td>TLA2,3,4,6,8,10</td>
<td>AT1,2,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO4</td>
<td>TLA3,4,7,8,10</td>
<td>AT2,3,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO5</td>
<td>TLA8,10</td>
<td>AT2,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLO6</td>
<td>TLA7,10</td>
<td>AT3,4</td>
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**Teaching Mode**

Two-hour lecture + one-hour tutorial

**Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide For Students and Teachers**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. Students must submit their assignments via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine (CUPIDE) [http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student](http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student).

Although cases of cheating or plagiarism are rare at the University, everyone should make himself/herself familiar with the content of this website and thereby help avoid any practice that would not be acceptable.
### Teaching Schedule

**Week 1  Introduction to the Course: Receptions and Interpretations of Technology in the Postmodern Age (9 Sept)**

*Introduction to Cybercultures*, Chapters 2 & 3.


Reference:


Tutorial topic:

Lang, Metropolis

Week 2 Feminist Studies of Science (16 Sept)


Tutorial topic:

Branagh, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

Week 3 Cyberspace and Virtual Reality (30 Sept)

Introduction to Cybercultures, Chapters 5-6.


Reference:


紀大衛 "去年在馬倫巴：模擬網頁小說"中外文學．1997 年 8 月 303 期 pp.102-119.

Philip K. Dick, "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" (This short story was
adapted into *Total Recall*)

Tutorial topic:

Wachowski, *The Matrix Trilogy*

**Week 4       Post-Information Age (7 October)**


Baudrillard, Jean. *The Ecstasy of Communication*.


Reference:

張大春，大都會的西米

Winkler, *The Net*

Tutorial topic:

Levinson, *Wag the Dog*

**Week 5       Cyberpunk and Postmodernity (14 Oct)**

*Introduction to Cybertechnologies*, Chapter 6


Reference:


Gibson, William. "Johnny Mnemonic."

村上春樹, 世界末日與冷酷異境

Longo, Johnny Mnemonic

Pryor, Dark City

Tutorial topic:

Scott, Blade Runner: the Final Cut

Week 6 Posthumanism and Cyberbodies (21 Oct)

Introduction to Cybercultures, Chapter 7


Reference:


Greg Egan, "Learning to be Me"

平路, 按鍵的手 人工智慧紀事
Tutorial topic:

Spielberg, *Artificial Intelligence: A.I.*

**Week 7  Biotechnologies and Gender Issues (28 Oct)**


Reference:

Greg Egan, “The Extra”

Boyle, *28 Days Later*

Singer, *X-Men* series

Tutorial topic:

Bay, *The Island*

**Week 8  Reproductive Technologies (4 Nov)**


Reference:


*The Silent Scream* (video)

Tutorial topic:

Niccol, *Gattaca*

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**Week 9   Cyberfeminism** (11 Nov)


Reference:


Tutorial topic:

Oshii, *Ghost in the Shell*

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**Week 10   Environment, Technology and Ecofeminism** (18 Nov)


Tutorial Topic:

Miyazaki, *Princess Mononoke* 《幽靈公主》

**Week 11  Video Game Culture (25 Nov)**


Reference:


Tutorial topic:

Cronenberg, *eXistenZ*

**Week 12  Science, Technology and the Cultural Reenchantment  (2 Dec)**


Tutorial topic:

Zemeckis, *Contact*
Suggested References

Introduction


Media


Internet


Body


**CyberFeminism**


**Reproduction**


**Environment and Ecofeminism**


**Science, Technology and Cultural Reenchantment**


