

TERM: Spring 2026
COURSE NUMBER: ENGL 6610.01
COURSE TITLE: Writing the Nonhuman
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: M 4:30-7:00 pm
INSTRUCTOR: Claire Stanford

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

The nonhuman is all around us, from nonhuman nature (tigers, trees, rivers) to the built environment (cars, shoes, skyscrapers) to the technological and biotechnological nonhuman (AI, robots, clones). But how do we represent the nonhuman in our writing, when we ourselves are human, and limited to human language? This course explores this paradoxical question, looking at both short fiction and novel-length works that focus on the nonhuman, with several that fully delve into the nonhuman point of view. Over the course of the semester, you will write two pieces of short fiction that will be workshopped by the class in a supportive, encouraging environment. In taking this class, you should be excited about experimenting with your writing and taking risks with your prose, workshopping your peers' work, and reading and studying examples of the nonhuman by writers including Kazuo Ishiguro, Ursula K. LeGuin, Talia Lakshmi Kolluri, and Karen Russell. Additionally, we will read secondary work on the theories of the nonhuman/posthuman; the class will also include a session on getting your work out in the world, with information on submitting short fiction to literary journals.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- English graduate students create literary art that moves, challenges, informs, entertains, and engages its audience
- English graduate students affirm and cultivate an individual artistic vision
- English graduate students can express themselves in an artistic, imaginative, inspired, and unique style
- English graduate students can generate compelling works of literary art
- English graduate students understand the professional production of creative texts
- English graduate students understand the relationship among producing literary art and advocating social justice

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Graduate Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

- ☐ Critical Methodology
- ☐ Contemporary Critical Theory
- ☐ Major Writer / Genre / Literary Period
- ☐ Literature Elective
- ☐ Theory Elective
- ☒ Creative Writing Seminar
- ☐ Rhetoric / Composition Theory and Practice
- ☐ Linguistics OR Reading Theory