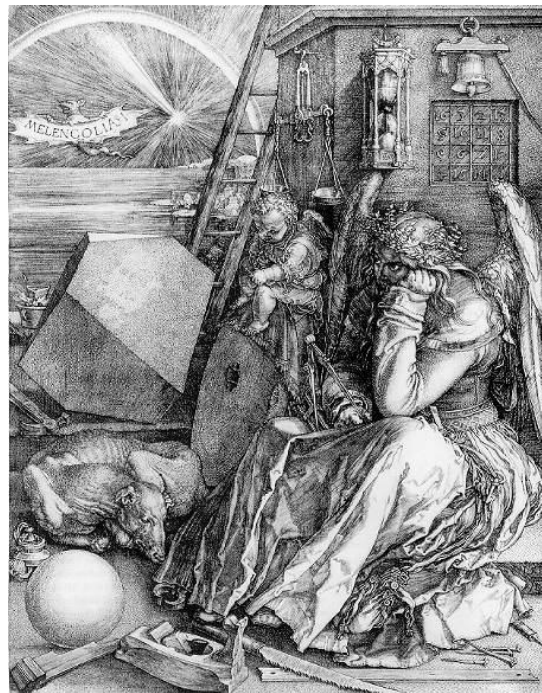


**Please note: this is a preliminary version of the syllabus, changes might occur.**

**The University of Toronto  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures**

## **CCR 199H: Technology and the Human**

**Winter 2012, Wednesday 10-12 am, place TBA**



Albrecht Dürer, Melancholia (1514)

### **Course Description**

Technology has changed our lives: from railway to car and plane, from telegraph to phone and e-mail, and from wooden artificial limbs to organic prosthetics, scientific knowledge has enhanced human capacities. At the same time, though, this development is also experienced as a threat: killing missiles, controlling 'Big Brothers,' and frightening monstrous creatures are the flip-side of technological advancement. This course examines the following questions: What is the relationship between technology and the "human"? Can there be progress of technology without a regress of humanity? Or is technology liberating us from the bonds of nature? We will discuss possible answers by looking at some of the most relevant materials in literature, philosophy, and cultural history (including film) from the eighteenth century to Post-Modernity. However, we do not want to deal with this pressing topic only theoretically. Since technology does not remain in the ivory tower of academia but concerns our every-day life, we will strive to find our own stance towards technology by observing our daily experiences. Therefore, some of the assignments will prompt you to explore your own technological environment.

## Course Objectives

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to conceptualizations of the relationship between technology and the human as they are reflected in literature and culture and to enhance students' ability to analyze and interpret texts.

## Instructor's Contact Information

Instructor: Christine Lehleiter  
Office: Odette Hall 312  
Office hours: TBA  
E-mail: christine.lehleiter@utoronto.ca  
Phone: 416-926-2319

## Evaluation of Course Work (Final Grade)

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Reflective Journal:	25%
Blackboard Contributions:	10%
In-Class Essay:	25%
Group Project:	25%

## Required texts

Robert J. Sawyer, *The Terminal Experiment* ISBN 978-0-14-317511-7

All other texts will be provided in paper or electronic format. Students are expected to have a copy of the assigned text available in class.

## Avoidance of Academic Offenses

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. According to Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students knowingly: to forge or in any other way alter or falsify any document or evidence required by the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered or falsified document, whether the record be in print or electronic form; to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to personate another person, or to have another person personate, at any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism; to submit, without knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere; to submit any

academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.

**Accessibility Needs**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .