This course is designated B-HUM and meets the Breadth Humanities undergraduate degree requirements.

**WL 204**  
**B-HUM**  
*Outlaws, Secret Agents, & the Undead: Human Rights & Its Literary Others*  
Spring 2017

---

**Terror is the armed wing of Virtue. Like religion, political utopias detest the monstrous incompleteness of man.**  
*Patrick DEVILLE / Kampuchea*

---

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mark Deggan  
**EMAIL:** mdeggan@sfu.ca  
**PHONE:** 778-782-9595  
**CLASS LOCATION:** AQ 5007  
**CLASS HOURS:** TH 2:30-5:20 pm

**PREREQUISITES:** Three units in World Literature or three units of B-Hum designated courses.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
We live in an era in which human rights are trumpeted everywhere, and everywhere abused. The current global migrant crisis is only one of several areas of concern alongside instances of ethnic purification, gender equality, or the effects of environmental degradation. This course investigates instances in which the boundaries between humans and the moral entitlements they claim for themselves have become blurred or effaced, and so call for a different kind of activism. What debates over rights can be dramatized through literary explorations of the human other?

We begin with de Duras’s novella of racial discrimination in post-revolutionary France before turning to the modernist era with Kafka’s satire of immigrant survival in America. We then read Camus’s existentialist-inflected short stories of the ethical fallouts of human outlooks, and close with a short novella and a play: Touch concerns the world of a young Palestinian girl, and Puig’s prison fantasy looks at the theatre of imagination linking a political prisoner to a gay fellow inmate. As a means of joining human rights issues to minority rights, queer theory, and society’s others, we will watch three celebrated films: “Kiss of the Spider Woman,” Zhang Yimou’s “Red Sorghum,” and “Ex Machina.”

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claire de Duras</td>
<td>Ourika</td>
<td>MLA</td>
<td>978-0873527804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz Kafka</td>
<td>Amerika [The Missing Person]</td>
<td>Schoken</td>
<td>978-0805211610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Camus</td>
<td>Exile and the Kingdom</td>
<td>Vintage</td>
<td>978-0307278586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adania Shibli</td>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>Clockroot Books</td>
<td>978-1566568074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Puig</td>
<td>Kiss of the Spiderwoman [play]</td>
<td>Norton</td>
<td>978-0393311488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Freeman</td>
<td>Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach</td>
<td>Polity Press</td>
<td>978-0745639666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FILMS: (provided)**  
- Kiss of Spider Woman (Brazil)  
- Red Sorghum (China)  
- Ex Machina  
- The Missing Picture

(Cambodia)

**ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION**  
- Short presentation: Alterity 10%  
- In-class Essay 20%

---

This course is designated B-HUM and meets the Breadth-Humanities undergraduate degree requirements.

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**** ENGAGING THE WORLD**
This course is designated B-HUM and meets the Breadth-Humanities undergraduate degree requirements.