This course will explore the concept of feminism within and alongside what we might loosely term the ‘posthuman’ turn in political theory. Recent engagements with new materialism, theories of horror and science fiction for thinking about the political, cyborg ontologies, robotics, transhumanism, and for some scholars, the anthropocene, all work to displace the human and humanism as the terminal center of critical inquiry. However, even within certain ‘anti-humanist’ frameworks, abstract ideals of masculinity persist and leave traces on how novel formations of embodiment, autonomy and self-determination are envisioned. Sexualized, racialized, and naturalized ‘others’ have always existed on the margins of the ideal human subject of rationality and the universal, signifying the boundary between the human and nonhuman in their ‘being’ shocking, monstrous, horrific and abject. While some feminist scholars have sought to challenge these identifications by reasserting their ‘humanness’, others have called for embracing monstrous, hybrid, animal, and ambiguous forms of being as a way out of what Donna Haraway calls ‘the maze of dualisms,’ and the obdurate binarisms that structure racist and sexist logics within Western politics and science. The texts we’ll read together are conceived as invitations to examine how ‘not-quite’ human and nonhuman conceptions of being disrupt conventional understandings of the relationship between gender and the human, human and sexuality, ‘woman’ and feminism, as well as how the fluctuating lines between fully- and partially-constituted subjects point to ritualistic demarcations and exclusions of abject or non-normative elements within social and political communities.

We may call it a border; abjection is above all ambiguity. Because, while releasing a hold, it does not radically cut off the subject from what threatens it - on the contrary, abjection acknowledges it to be in perpetual danger.

—Julia Kristeva, Powers of Horror

Wednesday 1:30pm to 4pm  
Business Admin Bldg, Room E204  

Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:30am to 12pm in Saunders 608  
Email: nsgrove@hawaii.edu
Week 1, Jan 13 - Horror as Philosophy


Week 2, Jan 20 - Queering Horror


Week 3, Jan 27 - Race and Sexuality in the Vampire Genre


Week 4, Feb 3 – A Cyborg Manifesto


In class viewing and discussion of Haraway’s, ‘Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene: Staying with the Trouble,” May, 9 2014. Available at https://vimeo.com/97663518

Week 5, Feb 10 – Rosi Braidotti and Feminist Anti-Humanism


Week 6, Feb 17– A Posthuman Humanities?

Braidotti, *The Posthuman,* cont.
Week 7, Feb 24 - Animacies


Week 8, March 2 - Animacies cont.


Week 9, March 9 - Almanac of the Dead


Week 10, March 16 - The Promises of Technobiopolitics


Week 11, March 21-25 - Spring Recess

Week 12, March 30 – Habeas Viscus


Week 13, April 6 – Habeas Viscus, cont.

Weheliya, *Habeas Viscus* cont.

Week 14, April 20 - Material Agency and Bodily Matters

Week 15, April 27 - Lilith’s Brood / Xenofeminism


Laboria Cuboniks, Xenofeminism: A Politics for Alienation. Available at http://www.laboriacuboniks.net

Week 16, May 4 - ‘No Humans Involved’
