

# Desire, Literature, Technology

COLT 474, 22063R, Spring 2014, Thursdays, 2:00-4:50 pm, THH 215

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This course examines our relationship with technology through its presentation and critique in speculative fiction. We will explore how technology creates needs and desires at the same time that it generates anxieties about the future. Is desire the product of technologies, or forms of making, rather than something natural or spontaneous? How does “desire” connect technology to literature? Is literature itself a technology? How does literature represent the world of making, of objects and commodities, when it itself is an object and commodity?

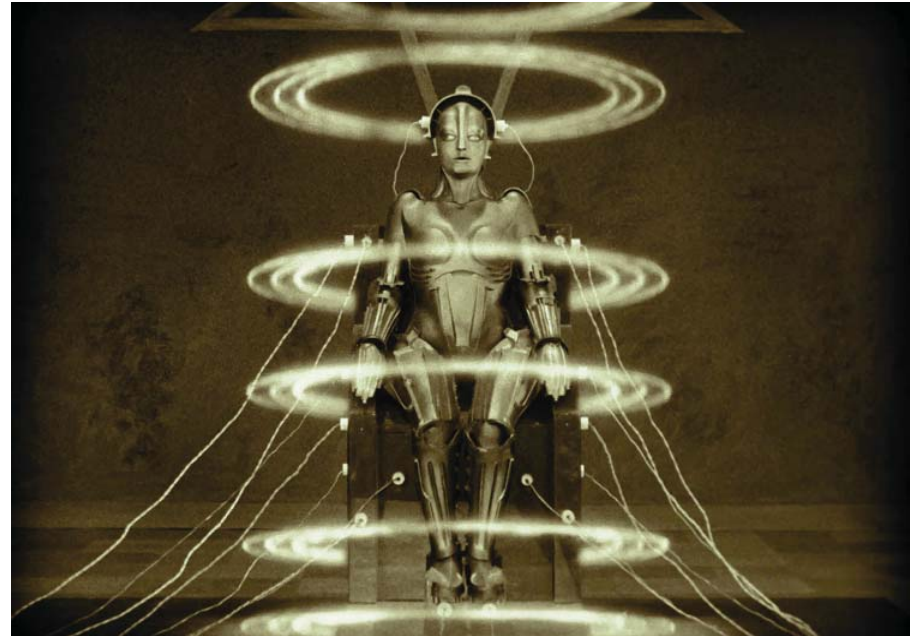
In our attempt to answer these questions, we will explore fantastic worlds of experimentation, cyborgs, taxidermy, and artificial intelligence. Along with philosophical readings on the nature of desire and technology by Walter Benjamin, Donna Haraway, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, students will read literary works ranging from Mary Shelley’s

*Frankenstein* and Karel Capek’s *RUR: Rossum’s Universal Robots* to more contemporary works such as Nalo Hopkinson’s *Brown Girl in the Ring*, M. T. Anderson’s *Feed*, and Shirow Masamune’s manga *Ghost in the Shell*.

**COLT L/M/CT Track:** This is a **Critical Thought** concentration course.

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Fritz Lang. Still from *Metropolis*. (early 20th C.)

Professor Atia Sattar

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