What does it mean to be human? How has the idea of humanity been mobilized to achieve equality, equity, and justice? How has this concept simultaneously been used to exclude, denigrate, and deny?

We’ll study twenty-first century novels, poetry, short stories, and a graphic novel to address these questions.

Likely texts include Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen: An American Lyric* (poetry), Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Never Let Me Go* (novel), and Emil Ferris’s *My Favorite Thing is Monsters* (graphic novel).