

Unsettling the Human:

Making Lives Count in Contemporary World Literature

ENGL 200: Foundations of Literary Study

Dr. Rose Casey | Fall 2021

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

Are new technologies challenging the category of the human? And what purchase does literary study have on examining this category in ways that other disciplines cannot?

We'll study twenty-first century novels, poetry, a graphic novel and a television series 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).

