Reshaping Humanity: The Fate of Intelligence, Feelings and Autonomy in the Digital Age

Marshall McLuhan is reputed to have once observed "We shape our tools and thereafter our tools shape us." In this course we examine the fraught relationship humans have with their tools -- specifically their digital tools. We will examine how this relationship has been represented by social scientists, fiction writers and film-makers. Topics include A.I., the plausibility of technological determinism, autonomy, human limits, and the transformation of feelings and cognition.