Many have declared the end of Modern civilization in the past few years. These apocalyptic exaltations come in a few varieties. Marxists see in the unraveling of global order capitalism falling prey to its own contradictions. Ecologically minded thinkers see in global warming and species loss a brittle human habitat unlikely to support a projected ten billion humans. Those with a taste for technology foretell the end as a transition away from the meat suit of homo sapiens in favor of post-organic life. In all of these narratives of the end there is the presumption of a sudden break or transformation. In this year’s Politics of the Future seminar we will explore the shortcomings of viewing the future as a single possibility and consider what hybrid futures of partial and incomplete transformations might look like. In particular, we will add a healthy dose of skepticism to images of the Anthropocene/geoengineering or post-natural future, neuropolitical futures of artificial intelligence and augmented cognition, and techno-optimist forecasts of the future. The last five weeks will be spent investigating alternative approaches to the future that consider the Black Radical Tradition, multi-species politics, Afro-pessimist theories of affirmative failure, and the return to armed insurrection as alternatives to contemporary politics.
**Requirements:**
All students will be required to present on one of the readings. Presentations should be 10 to 12 minute evaluation of the assigned reading.

All students will complete 20 to 25 page paper that utilizes concept and material from class discussion and reading. Topics and abstracts will be presented the last two weeks of class.

**Readings:**

**The Expected Future**

**Week 1**
Kevin Kelly, *The Inevitable: Understanding the 12 Technological Forces That Will Shape Our Future*

**The Moderns**

**Week 2 & 3**

**The Anthropocene**

**Week 4**

**Week 5**

**Brains**

**Week 6**
Steven Shaviro, *Discognition* (Reactor Books, 2016)

**Week 7**

**Technology**

**Week 8**

**Week 9**
Benjamin Bratton, *Dispute Plan to Prevent Future Luxury Constitution* (Sternberg Press, 2016)
Other Futures

**Week 10**
Colin Dayan, with dogs at the edge of life (Columbia University Press, 2015)

**Week 11**

**Week 12**
Fred Moten and Stefano Harney, The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study (http://www.minorcompositions.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/undercommons-web.pdf)

**Week 13**
Elizabeth Povinelli, Geontologies: A Requiem to Late Liberalism (Duke University Press, 2016)

**Week 14**
Frederick Jameson, An American Utopia: Dual Power and the Universal Army (Verso Books, 2016)