

GOVT. COLLEGE GHARAUNDA (KARNAL)

(Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra)



Department of English

cordially invites you to

a

Two-Day International Seminar (Hybrid Mode)

On

“Planetary Futures: Towards Ecocritical and Posthuman Alternatives”

January 8-9, 2026

Sponsored by

The Directorate of Higher Education Haryana
Sector-5, Shiksha Sadan, Panchkula

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About the College

Government College Gharanda was established in 1981 with an aim to provide quality education in undergraduate streams (Arts and Commerce). At present the college is offering courses in Arts (B.A.), Commerce (B.Com.) and Science (B.Sc. Life Sciences and B.Sc. Physical Sciences). The college is situated in the village Gyanpura, Arainpura Road, Gharanda. Spread over a sprawling campus, the college is well-equipped with necessary facilities like computer labs, library, playground, Placement Cell, and so on. The college has been actively participating in NIRF every session for the past four years.

About the English Department

One of the aspiring departments of the college since its inception in 1981, the department bestows quality education and makes emphasis on effective communication skills of young students who come from the countryside so that they may be able to develop their skills and gain knowledge without hesitation. The faculty members are doing well in the field of research on international level. The department is planning to organize more international seminars for cultural exchange and quality research in the future.

Two-Day International Seminar (Hybrid Mode)

on

“Planetary Futures: Towards Ecocritical and Posthuman Alternatives” (January 8-9, 2026)

About the theme:

“Planetary Futures” explores environmentalism and justice in writings which dwell at the intersection of human relationship with the natural world, environmental degradation, sustainable development, and futurism in literary and cultural texts where there is exploration of literary genres—such as science fiction, utopian/dystopian fiction, and climate fiction—that imagine alternative futures by considering the cultural and philosophical implications of human and non-human interactions, challenging traditional notions of human exceptionalism, and analysis of literary and cultural responses to climate change, energy transitions, and sustainable futures.

Posthumanism emerged as a response to traditional humanist and anthropocentric notions of the West—particularly emboldened during the European Renaissance. Renaissance Humanism itself is driven by Abrahamian monotheism, wherein “God” created “man” in His image, marking all non-human creations as lowly “others” and empowering “man” to exploit earthly resources to “his” benefit. This divine validation has led to false worldviews such as the Great Chain of Being, which, although dismissed long back, can still be sensed in the way human beings have been abusing non-human entities over the centuries, to the detriment of the environment and the future of life itself.

While environmental awareness dates back to primitive societies and ancient polytheistic faiths around the world, its representation in literary canons can be traced back to the Vedas and works by writers such as Kalidasa in India, Aboriginal writings in Australia, writings by Native American authors in the Americas as well as modern American environmentalists like Henry David Thoreau and Rachel Carson, and so on. Posthumanism as a theory i.e. the discourse on rejection of traditional anthropocentrism and move towards the intersections and coexistence of human and non-human worlds, as well as the many strands within posthumanism, originated in the 1980s and is a work-in-progress, its pioneers being theorists such as Donna Haraway, Rosi Braidotti, Cary Wolfe, and others.

The topic for the seminar examines how literature and language shape our understanding of the planet, its futures, and our place within it. We see the impact of environmental posthumanism in science fiction works by Margaret Atwood, Cormac McCarthy, Kurt Vonnegut, Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia E. Butler, Kim Stanley Robinson, and Paolo Bacigalupi, as well as in the works of environmentalists such as Henry David Thoreau, Rachel Carson, and Bill McKibben. Authors of ecofiction have also enriched the field by employing political overtones in their writings. These writers include Edward Abbey and Barbara Kingsolver, among others. Eco-consciousness runs deep in poetry as well, quite visible in the writings of William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Mary Oliver, Joy Harjo, Jane Hirshfield, and others.

The seminar invites scholars to assess and rethink the intersections of human and non-human worlds in literary texts (spanning fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, cinema, etc.) and transcend this binary to strive towards sustainable and just planetary futures.

Sub-themes:

- Critical Posthumanism and Planetary Futures
- Issues of subjugation, dispensability and surrogacy in Posthumanism
- The fragility of things in neoliberal fantasies and democratic activism
- Ongoing global dialogues on Posthumanism
- Posthuman life: Philosophy at the edge of the human
- Posthumanism and the Enlightenment
- Critical Theory: The Posthuman Turn
- Postcolonial ecologies and environmental justice
- Decolonialism and the Anthropocene
- Globalization, planetary cosmopolitanism and the future of humanity
- Death of the Posthuman
- Postmodern and Postcolonial futures
- How we became posthuman in virtual cybernetics
- Dreaming with Drones in Posthuman Futures
- Sense of Place and Sense of Planet
- Sex Dolls and Posthuman Futures
- Subalternity and Posthumanism
- Ecofeminism and oppression
- Feminist posthumanism
- Feminist and queer perspectives on climate change
- Queer environmentalism and the politics of desire
- Queer futurism and the politics of hope
- The Ethics of Human-Animal Differences
- Horrible impacts of Teletechnology
- Spiritual Pragmatism of Posthumanism
- Literature for a Changing Planet
- Climate fiction in Postmodernism
- Climate fiction and its impact on public discourse
- Artificial intelligence and posthuman consciousness
- Posthumanist ethics and moral responsibility
- Changing conceptions of the body
- Neo-eugenics in India
- Posthumanism and New Materialism
- Climate Change and Energy Humanities
- Techno-colonialism
- Technological vitalism
- Cybernetics and systems thinking
- Ecocriticism in cinema
- Posthuman representations in cinema
- Any other topic related to the theme

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International Advisory Board

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Google Form for registration:

<https://forms.gle/YPEvAaeuvPcHLdUu7>

Payment for the registration:

Account Number: - 65232149035

IFSC Code: - SBIN0050097

Name of the Bank: - State Bank of India

Branch Name: - SBI, Railway Road, Gharanda

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Venue:

Science Block
Government College Gharanda (Karnal)



“We” are not who “we” once believed ourselves to be.

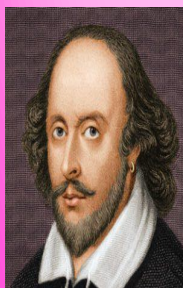
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On

**“Planetary
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Towards
Ecocritical and
Posthuman
Alternatives”**

Date:
(January 8-9, 2026)



“Posthuman does not really mean the end of humanity; it signals instead the end of a certain conception of the human.”

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are invited to upload abstracts (250-300 words) with five to six keywords by December 15, 2025 in the registration form. The full paper (title, abstract, keywords, main text, figures, tables, references, etc.) must be in a single MS Word document. Full papers should be between 2000-3000 words. Contributors will use Times New Roman font in English. Font size should be 16 points for the title, 12 points for rest of the text, spacing 1.5, margin of one (1) inch on all sides, and text should be justified on both sides. Please attach your full paper in the registration form itself, or send it by December 24, 2025 in an email along with relevant details to tie it with your registration form.

Registration Fees

Faculty Members:
INR500/-

Students and Research
Scholars:
INR300/-

(In case of multiple authors, each author is required to pay the registration fee separately.)

ON SPOT REGISTRATION
(9:00 AM to 10:00 AM only)

Important Dates:

Last date for submission of abstract:
December 15, 2025

Last date for submission of full paper:
December 24, 2025

(Note: No fees or research papers will be accepted after the due date.)

Please submit your full paper during registration

([Google Form](#)) or via email:
isgcghd@gmail.com

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REGISTRATION FORM

(Bring filled-in form for On Spot registrations only)

for

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Name of the Participant (Mr./Ms./Dr./Prof.) _____

Designation (Asst./Assoc./Prof./Research Scholar) _____

Department _____

College/Institute/University _____

Address _____

Mobile Number _____

Email Address _____

Registration Fees (online/offline) _____

Are you presenting a research paper? (Yes or No) _____

If yes, title of the research paper _____

Ecocritical and Posthuman Alternatives



Signature of the Participant

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