

## F.9

### The English-speaking world – Media

# Den Film „Ex Machina“ analysieren – What does it mean to be human?

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Was bedeutet es, ein Mensch zu sein? Kann künstliche Intelligenz als Mensch durchgehen? Und falls ja, welche Konsequenzen wird dies für die Menschheit haben? Das sind Fragen, die sich aufgrund der aktuellen Entwicklungen im Bereich *Artificial Intelligence* stellen. Die fiktionale Welt des Films „Ex Machina“ gibt mögliche Antworten auf diese Fragen. Die Unterrichtseinheit hilft Lernenden dabei, sich mit dem Film und den darin behandelten Themen auseinanderzusetzen und sich der realen Gefahren und Risiken von KI bewusst zu werden.

## Auf einen Blick

### 1. Stunde

**Thema:** Introduction to the film “Ex Machina” – What does it mean to be human?

**M 1** “Ex Machina” – **Pre-viewing tasks** / Das Filmposter interpretieren; Fragen diskutieren; den Trailer ansehen

**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang zum Anschauen des Filmtrailers

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### 2./3. Stunde

**Thema:** The opening scene (00:00–10:57 min.)

**M 2** **The opening scene – A new job** / Die Eröffnungsszene analysieren

**M 3** **Template film analysis – The three Cs and three Ss**

**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang für die Recherche

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### 4./5. Stunde

**Thema:** Session 1 (10:58–22:40 min.)

**M 4** **Session 1 – The first encounter** / Session 1 analysieren

**M 5** **Template – Observation notes**

**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang für die Recherche

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### 6./7. Stunde

**Thema:** Session 2 (22:41–37:15 min.)

**M 6** **Session 2 – A warning** / Session 2 analysieren

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### 8./9. Stunde

**Thema:** Session 3 (37:16–48:32 min.)

**M 7** **Session 3 – Caleb's concern** / Session 3 analysieren

**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang für die Recherche

**10./11. Stunde****Thema:** Session 4 (48:33–58:09 min.)**M 8** Session 4 – “Mary’s room” / Session 4 analysieren**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang für die Recherche**12./13. Stunde****Thema:** Session 5 (58:10–01:12:26 min.)**M 9** Session 5 – Shocking revelations / Session 5 analysieren**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang für die Recherche**14./15. Stunde****Thema:** Session 6 (01:12:27–01:29:06 min.)**M 10** Session 6 – The plan / Session 6 analysieren**16./17. Stunde****Thema:** Session 7 (01:29:07–01:38:18 min.)**M 11** Session 7 – The ending / Session 7 analysieren**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang für die Recherche**18.–20. Stunde****Thema:** “Ex Machina” in retrospect**M 12** “Ex Machina” – Post-viewing tasks / Den Film rückblickend reflektieren und diskutieren; eine Filmkritik verfassen**Benötigt:** Digitale Endgeräte und Internetzugang zum Abrufen der Links

## Session 2 – A warning

M 6

### Tasks

- 22:41–37:15 min.: Watch the scene and summarise the plot.
- Revisit Caleb and Nathan's conversation before Caleb's second session with Ava (23:37–24:40 min.). Explain: Which difficulties does Caleb see in testing Ava? Which focus does Nathan want him to set? How does this connect to your findings about consciousness?
- Rewatch Caleb's second session with Ava (24:45–30:38 min.). Observe Ava and take notes in the template.
- Rewatch 32:19–34:05 min.
  - Analyse Caleb's behaviour and compare what he reports to Nathan with what he actually observed (based on your findings from task 3).
  - Why does Caleb leave out certain parts of what happened? Formulate his thoughts during the scene in the thought bubble.
  - "How does she feel about you?" is the observation question that Nathan issued in the conversation with Caleb before session 2. Evaluate and Interpret: Keeping Nathan's question in mind, what has Ava managed to show in session 2? Which effect does she have on Caleb? How has her behaviour affected Caleb's relationship with her? Add your results to your observation notes.
- Rewatch 34:49–37:17 min. Use the film analysis template and analyse: What is the function of this scene? What is Nathan's intention in taking Caleb to his research lab? And how is it supported via film?



## M 7 Session 3 – Caleb’s concern



### Tasks



- 37:16–48:32 min.: Watch the scene and summarise the plot.
- Rewatch 37:16–43:11 min. Observe Ava and take notes in the template.
- Nathan’s challenge



- Find out more about Jackson Pollock and his style of painting.
  - Rewatch 44:02–48:32 min. Explain in your own words:
    - What is Caleb’s concern?
    - How does Nathan ease his concern?
    - Which role does Jackson Pollock play in Nathan’s explanation?
  - How should Caleb interact with and react to Ava after the talk with Nathan? Give him advice. You can start like this: Caleb, in your next session with Ava, make sure you ...
- Look at the film stills. Use relevant aspects of the film analysis template and analyse: What is implied about Kyoko in this scene?



Screenshot from the film “Ex Machina” © Rob Hardy/© DNA Films/Film 4 Productions/IAC Films



Screenshot from the film “Ex Machina” © Rob Hardy/© DNA Films/Film 4 Productions/IAC Films

## Session 7 – The ending

M 11

### Tasks

- 01:29:07–01:38:18 min.: Watch the scene.
  - Summarise the plot.
  - Compare your ideas from M 10 with the ending of the film. What is surprising, interesting or disturbing? Comment.
- Rewatch 01:29:12–01:36:13 min.
  - Observe Ava and take notes in the template.
  - How are your findings from task 2a) expressed via film? Use the film analysis template and analyse.
- Look at the film still. Ava is juxtaposed with a painting by Gustav Klimt.
  - Work in pairs.
    - Partner A: Research and find out more about the painting.
    - Partner B: Research and find out more about Gustav Klimt and the role of women in his paintings.
  - Share your findings and interpret: Which role does the painting play in the final scene of the film?
  - Compare your results to your findings about Jackson Pollock. How do Pollock's painting and Klimt's painting relate to the film in general?
- Rewatch the closing scene (01:37:41–01:38:11 min.).
  - Observe Ava and take notes in M 5.
  - Interpret: What does the closing scene imply about Ava? Use M 3 and analyse how the last impression the viewer gets of her is expressed via film.



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