Engineering in Film & Media

First-Year Seminar Program

Autumn Semester 2019 Syllabus

Classroom, Day, and Time: TBA

Instructor: John Schrock, PE [schrock.28@osu.edu](mailto:schrock.28@osu.edu) Office: HI 305 , Hours: TBA

**Course Description:** This course evaluates Engineering portrayed in various media formats, including movies, fiction and non-fiction books, television clips, professional talks, short videos, news, and social media. Students will provide analysis of their experience with these media, and track their connectedness to engineering through this process. Students, especially freshman, often feel disconnected from engineering courses, engineers, and the field of engineering. Students will make connections of their coursework to the passions and to the real-world through thoughtful analysis and creative engagement with engineering topics.

This course is intended for freshman students that have an interest in social perceptions of the engineering discipline in film, media, and society. There are no prerequisites for this course. This class will meet every week, once a week, for 55 minutes.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide a platform for students to evaluate and discuss how Engineering is portrayed in various films, books, and digital media

2. To help students connect how Engineering is applied in the real-world

3. To make engineering more relatable and interesting to students, increasing motivation and self-efficacy

4. To provide opportunities for professional writing and speaking from a creative point of view

**Grading:** This is a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) course.

**Class Activities:** Each week, students will be assigned a media (or multiple smaller media). Various video clips and social media will be viewed during class time and discussed; movies, various videos, and a book will be assigned outside of class. Students will be required to consider main themes such as relatability, motivation, self-efficacy, interest, and connectedness in engineering in the process of viewing various forms of media.

There will be a combination of worksheets, discussions, and reflections throughout the semester, culminating in a final presentation. A worksheet is provided to students to fill in short answers pertaining to the items mentioned above for the movies and book assignments. Discussions occur during class time and will be guided, but open-ended, for students to engage and build a sense of community with each other. Reflections are brief, single-spaced, writings that encourage students to think critically about, and learn from, their experiences throughout the semester.

Students will complete and ‘pre’ and ‘post’ surveys, at the beginning and end of the course, about their views on engineering pertaining to the main themes.

**Course Outline:**

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| **Week** | **Media Topics (In-Class)** | **Assignments (Worksheets due every week)** |
| 1 | Intro / Research / Engineering Foundational Concepts / Goals of Course | Read Book: *The Design of Everyday Things* for Week 4 Discussion |
| 2 | Film 1: Back to the Future 1 |  |
| 3 | Film 2: Hugo |  |
| 4 | TV Clips / Book 1 Discussion |  |
| 5 | Film 3: Hidden Figures |  |
| 6 | Film 4: Apollo 13 | **DUE**: Reflection 1 |
| 7 | Professional Formats & Ted Talks |  |
| 8 | Film 5: Thirteenth Floor | **DUE**: Book Analysis Worksheet |
| 9 | Film 6: The Social Network |  |
| 10 | News & Social Media |  |
| 11 | Film 7: The Martian | **DUE**: Draft Presentation |
| 12 | TV Clips 2 / Book 2 Discussion |  |
| 13 | Film 8: Student Pick - TBD |  |
| 14 | Final Presentations |  |
| 15 | Wrap-Up / Misc. student chosen clips | **DUE**: Reflection 2 |

**Course Materials:**

* **Required Reading:**

Norman, Donald A. (2013) *The Design of Everyday Things*. New York: Doubleday.

* **Carmen:**

The Carmen website contains all course materials including assignments, grades, and schedule. The site link is **carmen.osu.edu**.

* **Films:**

Will be provided by the instructor through library and external resources. All other digital material is available at no cost online.

* **Support Materials:**

Suggested optional readings and resources will be provided throughout the course.

**Exams:** There are no exams in this course.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory for this class. Each student is permitted to miss one class with no penalty. If a student has two unexcused absences, they will receive an Unsatisfactory (U).

**Classroom Communications:** Your instructor may post course information on Carmenor communicate through email. It is the student’s responsibility to read emails and check Carmen.

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute academic misconduct.

The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), and copying the work of another student. , and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so it is recommended that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If your instructor suspects that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, he/she is obligated by University Rules to report suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact your instructor.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

* The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages (<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html>)
* Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (<http://oaa.osu.edu/coamtensuggestions.html>)
* Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity ([www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html](file:///\\glory\feprojects\FEH\Development\1281\www.northwestern.edu\uacc\8cards.html))

**Official Ohio State Sexual Harassment Policy:** The University administration, faculty, staff, student employees, and volunteers are responsible for assuring that the University maintains an environment for work and study free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unlawful and impedes the realization of the University's mission of distinction in education, scholarship, and service. Sexual harassment violates the dignity of individuals and will not be tolerated. The University community seeks to eliminate sexual harassment through education and by encouraging faculty, staff, student employees, and volunteers to report concerns or complaints. Prompt corrective measures will be taken to stop sexual harassment whenever it occurs.

Source: <http://hr.osu.edu/policy/policy115.pdf>

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact your instructor privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact Student Life Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 098 Baker Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.