Engineering in Film & Media

First-Year Seminar Program

Autumn Semester 2020 Syllabus

Classroom, Day, and Time: TBA

Instructor: John Schrock, PE Office: HI 325 , Hours: TBA

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**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. An ‘S’ is earned with a final grade of 70% (C- equivalent) or above.

**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 ‘Part I’ *(Chapters 1 & 2)*: *The Design of Everyday Things* |
| 2 | Discussion: Book ‘Part I’ | Film 1: Back to the Future 1 |
| 3 | Discussion: Back to the Future 1 | Film 2: Hugo |
| 4 | Discussion: Hugo | TV Clips (assorted)  Write Reflection 1 |
| 5 | Discussion: TV Clips | Film 3: Hidden Figures |
| 6 | **DUE**: Reflection 1  Discussion: Hidden Figures | Film 4: Apollo 13 |
| 7 | Discussion: Apollo 13 | Read Book ‘Part II’ *(Chapters 4 & 5)*: *The Design of Everyday Things* |
| 8 | Discussion: Book ‘Part II’ | Professional Formats & Ted Talks |
| 9 | **DUE**: Book Analysis Worksheet  Discussion: Professional Formats | Film 5: Thirteenth Floor |
| 10 | Discussion: Thirteenth Floor | Film 6: The Social Network |
| 11 | Discussion: The Social Network | News & Social Media |
| 12 | **DUE**: Draft Presentation  Discussion: News & Social Media | Film 7: The Martian |
| 13 | Discussion: The Martian | Film 8: Student Choice  *Students will choose from a shared list of movies* |
| 14 | **DUE:** Final Presentations  *In-class or pre-recorded video* | Write Reflection 2 |
| 15 | **DUE**: Reflection 2  Wrap-Up / Feedback  *Plus any misc. student chosen clips* |  |

**Course Materials:**

* **Required Reading:**

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

* We will read Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5 but the rest of the book is encouraged.
* **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.

**Final Presentation:** The final presentation can be done in-person in the classroom, in any interactive or standard Powerpoint format, or a pre-made video. The 2-minute video is a summary of your journey through the class, focusing on any key (or lacking) perspectives prior to the course and ending with new knowledge.

**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**: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at [http://titleix.osu.edu](http://titleix.osu.edu/) or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)

**Students with Disabilities:** The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options.  To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services.  After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

**Mental Health:** As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu/) or calling [614­-292-­5766](tel:%28614%29%20292-5766). CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at [614­-292-­5766](tel:%28614%29%20292-5766) and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-­800­-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/).

**Diversity & Inclusion:** The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.