

**Engineering in Film & Media**  
**First-Year Seminar Program**  
**Spring Semester 2018 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. Engineering students themselves, especially freshman, often feel disconnected from engineering and/or lack self-efficacy in their future as an engineer. Many non-engineers 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 engineering and/or social perceptions of a discipline in film and media. 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 for cross-discipline work with engineers
4. To provide opportunities for professional writing and speaking from a creative point of view
5. To build a sense of community through social constructionism focused on engineering

**Class Activities:** Each week, students will be discuss various topics related to engineering. Movies, various video clips, and social media will be viewed outside of class, along with one non-fiction reading. There will be a combination of worksheets, discussions, and reflections throughout the semester, culminating in a 2-minute final presentation, or synthesis of the course.

Students will complete and 'pre' and 'post' surveys, at the beginning and end of the course, about their views on engineering; this includes such items as relatability, motivation, interest, trust, connectedness to engineering, and self-efficacy in cross-disciplinary work with engineering.

**Grading:** This is a pass/fail (P/F) course.

### Course Outline:

Week	In-Class Topics and Activities	Assignments
1	Intro / Foundational Concepts / Course Goals	<i>Watch Film 1: Back to the Future 1</i>
2	Reading Non-Fiction	<i>Read Book: Design of Everyday Things</i>
3	Movie 1 Discussion (Sci-Fi Problem Solving)	<i>Watch Film 2: Hugo</i>
4	Professional Formats & Ted Talks (pt.1)	
5	Movie 2 Discussion (Automation)	<i>Watch Film 3: Hidden Figures</i>
6	TV Clips and Social Media	<b>DUE:</b> Reflection 1
7	Movie 3 Discussion (Social Justice)	<i>Watch Film 4: The Social Network</i>
8	Book Discussion/Group Activity	<b>DUE:</b> Book Analysis Worksheet
9	Movie 4 Discussion (Defining Success)	<i>Watch Film 5: The Martian</i>
10	no class – Spring Break	
11	Ted Talks (pt.2)	<b>DUE:</b> Draft of Synthesis
12	Movie 5 Discussion (Critical Problem Solving)	<i>Film 6: Student Pick</i>
13	Misc. topics - student led meeting	
14	Movie 6 Discussion (dissemination of chosen films)	
15	Synthesis Presentations by students	<b>DUE:</b> Reflection 2

### Course Materials:

- **Required Reading:**  
Norman, Donald A. (2013) *The Design of Everyday Things*. New York: Doubleday.
- **Movies:**  
Students will purchase up to 6 movies, as needed, for viewing for the course.
- **Carmen:**  
The Carmen website contains all course materials including assignments, feedback, and course schedule. The site link is [carmen.osu.edu](http://carmen.osu.edu).
- **Films and Popcorn:**  
Will be provided by the instructor, during class time.
- **Support Materials:**  
Suggested optional readings, videos, 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.

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

**Student Permission for Program Publicity:** During participation in the First-Year Engineering Series and within the EED, photographs, printed material, and videotapes may be made for the purpose of informing the university community and the general public about activities in the College. Student images in the above media may be used to promote College programs and to make public announcements of student accomplishments and those of other students. If students do not wish for their image to be used, they should contact Dr. Lisa Abrams, Abrams.34@osu.edu.

**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](http://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.