

Futurology: Fall 2017

Course Website

<https://caro.io/futurology>

Location & Time

WEH 5415

Mondays 6:30 - 7:20PM

Instructor

Caroline Hermans

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Course Description

What will the world look like 100 years from now? Technological breakthroughs happen every day, but where are they taking us as a society? Is that a place we want to go?

We'll attempt to answer these questions by looking at the past, present, and future of fields such as **virtual reality, transportation, biotechnology, renewable energy, space exploration, politics, artificial intelligence**, and more. Science fiction and futurology go hand in hand, so we'll also be looking at media such as *Star Trek*, *Black Mirror*, and *1984* to discuss what utopian and dystopian predictions could really come true (or already have).

Course Philosophy

You're probably here because you think this stuff is **really cool**. So is the person next to you. So am I, the person writing this syllabus. I want us to all learn to think like Futurologists together, and I hope it's a ton of fun!

Assignments

You'll have a small assignment due each week in class. After each new topic is introduced, your assignment is to **come in with one new example of that topic in the real world**. There's a lot more to explore about each of these topics than I can possibly fit into one class!

Midterm & Final Project

Your midterm is going to be a **futurology hackathon** over the course of one class. You'll learn more about what this means later. The final project will be a **group presentation** that asks you to synthesize what we've learned over the course of the class, and to **imagine potential futures** of your own.

Grade & Attendance

It's pretty simple: show up and do the work and you'll pass the course. According to StuCo policy, if you miss 3 classes you can't pass. But I really hope you don't miss any: each class is a different topic, and you'll be missing out on some neat stuff if you don't show up. You must come to the midterm and the final. If you have to miss a class please try and let me know.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Intro to Futurology
Week 2	Artificial Intelligence
Week 3	Virtual Reality
Week 4	Augmented Reality
Week 5	Medicine & Biotechnology
Week 6	Robotics & Automation
Week 7	Midterm Project Day
Week 8	Transportation
Week 9	Climate Change & Renewable Energy
Week 10	Space Exploration
Week 11	Guest Lecture
Week 12	Computation
Week 13	Wearable Technology
Week 14	Society
Week 15	Final Project Work Day
Week 16	Final Presentations