

CS in Popular Culture

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Course prefix: CS

Course number: 8001

Section: OPC

CRN

56306

Instructor first name: Ana

Instructor last name: Rusch

Semester: Summer

Academic year: 2026

Catalog description:

For those of us still waiting for our flying car, looking to Science Fiction as a way to predict future technologies may seem a bit silly, but we shouldn't be so dismissive. From the days of Jules Vern, sci-fi authors have been imagining fantastical futures for humanity. Many of these "predictions" have been based on little more than a blind faith in humanity's potential, yet many of these predictions have come to pass. Just think, a multi-billion dollar suit between Apple and Samsung cited Star Trek in the legal proceedings! Come join us as we explore past "predictions" as well as stories about the world yet to arrive and connect them to current trends and ongoing research in AI and computing as a whole. In this synchronous seminar (a time will be selected based on a poll of enrollees) co-led by Eric Ianni and Ana Rusch, students will watch and read through selected movies and short stories on the topic, as well as analyze music that deals with these concepts. We will meet bi-weekly via Teams.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.