

# WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

## CSE 098 – Section 010 (1 credit)

Spring 2019, March 22 – May 3 • 2:10 pm – 3:50 pm Fridays • Building C 115

**Instructors** Professor Daniel Lopresti  
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**Texts** As a pre-read before our course begins, please read the following book:  
*Geek Girl Rising: Inside the Sisterhood Shaking Up Tech* by Heather Cabot and Samantha Parent Walravens, St. Martin's Press, 2017.

There will be weekly assigned readings/articles posted to CourseSite.

**CourseSite** Materials and discussion forums will be available at  
<http://coursesite.lehigh.edu/>

**Grading**

- Participation (in-class & online discussion forums) 50 points (50%)
- Final Paper 50 points (50%)

### Course Description

The technology industry has been the engine of growth for the US economy for the past four decades. Emergent tech companies have shaped all of our lives, and created significant professional and financial opportunities for the leaders of these high growth ventures. Despite the many clear opportunities, women hold a minority of the leadership positions in the tech industry. Why? What can be done to change this? How can the next generation of female tech industry leaders succeed? This one credit class will explore the issue over 8 sessions, meeting once weekly. The class will feature a number of guest lectures by female tech leaders who will offer points of view on the issues, and share their experiences as a guidepost for success.

Topics explored in the course will include:

- The challenges and opportunities for women in the technology industry
- The importance of coaching and mentoring young women in tech
- Diversity in the workplace and why it matters
- How do we attract and retain more women in technology and engineering fields?
- Does the glass ceiling exist? If so, how do we break it?
- What are the alternate career paths for women in technology?
- How to manage work and life balance – the whole person
- What is the role of corporate culture in the tech industry?
- Is it all about the “hard skills?” What about emotional intelligence and authenticity?

## **Women in Technology Mentor Program & Final Paper**

For the duration of the eight-week course, you will be matched with a female in the technology industry who will serve as your mentor as you examine the opportunities for women in the technology industry. As part of your final grade, you will conduct an interview with the mentor and write a three to five page paper regarding your findings from the interview and insights from the mentoring relationship.

### **Final Paper**

Each student in the course must submit a final paper due by 9:00 pm on Monday, May 6. The purpose of the paper is to reflect on your findings from the interview with your mentor and any insights you gained from the mentoring relationship. You should also incorporate key lessons you learned from the class presentations. Papers may examine one or two topics deeply, or examine more topics in less detail. The paper should be 3 to 5 pages (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced). Quality over quantity is more important. We expect your write-up to follow the style of a high-quality and thoughtful paper, including proper use of citations. Your final paper will account for 50% of your grade in the course.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, Williams Hall, Suite 301 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

### **Principles of Our Equitable Community**

Lehigh University endorses The Principles of Our Equitable Community.\* We expect each member of this class to acknowledge and practice these Principles. Respect for each other and for differing viewpoints is a vital component of the learning environment inside and outside the classroom.

### **Academic Integrity**

The work you submit in CSE 098 must be entirely your own. While I encourage you to discuss basic concepts with friends and classmates, plagiarism is never acceptable. Such cases will be referred to the University Committee on Discipline and, if you are found guilty, you may be given the failing grade WF in the course. If you have questions about this policy at any point, ask me. It is far better to be safe than sorry when your academic career may be on the line.

\* [http://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/initiatives/PrinciplesEquity\\_Sheet\\_v2\\_032212.pdf](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/initiatives/PrinciplesEquity_Sheet_v2_032212.pdf)