WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
CSE 098 – Section 010 (1 credit)
January 24 – March 6, 2020 * 2:05pm – 3:20pm Fri * BC-115

Instructors:
Professor Daniel Lopresti
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Description: This class looks at the transformative role women play in promoting prosperity and human progress through technology and innovation. The class will shine a light on the remarkable women who are building companies and technologies that transform the way we live and work, and who are paving new paths for female entrepreneurship and gender equality. It will also look at the challenges that women in tech continue to face, including sexism, gender discrimination, unconscious bias, impostor syndrome and more. This one credit class will explore the issues over seven 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:
- Why diversity (gender, race, culture) matters in the workplace, especially in tech
- Entrepreneurship and the challenges/opportunities facing female founders
- Breaking the glass ceiling: the path to leadership for women in tech
- The “leaky” pipeline: how do we attract and retain more women in tech?
- The importance of coaching and mentoring young women in tech
- Venture capital’s diversity problem, and how we fix it
- Why “soft skills” matter: emotional intelligence, authenticity, communication skills
- The next “big thing”: future trends in tech

Texts: Geek Girl Rising: Inside the Sisterhood Shaking Up Tech. There may also be weekly assigned readings/articles posted to CourseSite.

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

Mentorship Program & Final Paper
For the duration of the seven-week course, you will be matched with a female in the technology industry who will serve as your mentor as you examine the opportunities and challenges faced by women in tech. 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, insights from the mentoring relationship, and key takeaways from the class discussions.

**Final Paper**
Each student in the course must submit a final paper due by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 9. 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 three to five 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.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Friday, January 24: Why diversity matters in the world of technology & innovation**
Readings: Chapter 1 in *Geek Girl Rising*; McKinsey report, “Why Diversity Matters”
Speakers:
- Bari Williams: VP of Legal & Policy Affairs at All Turtles; Former Senior Counsel, Facebook
- Jossie Haines: Platform Engineering Director, Tile; Diversity advocate

**Friday, January 31: Success strategies of female founders**
Reading: Chapter 2 in *Geek Girl Rising*
Speakers:
- Ari Horie: Founder and CEO, Women’s Startup Lab
- Shari Buck: Co-founder, Doximity
- Maci Peterson: Founder and CEO, On Second Thought

**Friday, February 7: Funding female and diverse founders**
Reading: Chapter 3 in *Geek Girl Rising*
Speakers:
- Shelly Kapoor Collins: Founding partner, The Shatter Fund
- Lisa Jones: Angel investor, Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund
- Susannah Shipton: Venture capitalist, AlleyCorp

**Friday, February 14: The path to leadership**
Speakers:
- Ann Lewnes: Executive Vice President and CMO, Adobe
- Kathleen Egan, Kathleen Egan, COO ecomedes; Lehigh engineering, Harvard MBA

**Friday, February 21: Young alumni in tech panel**
Reading: Chapters 4 and 6 in *Geek Girl Rising*
Speakers:
- Christine Quan: Data scientist & engineer, Periscope Data; BS, MS Stanford (2014)
- Emma Catlin: Software engineer at Pinterest; Brown (2018)

**Friday, February 28: Inspiring the next generation**
Reading: Chapter 7 in *Geek Girl Rising*
Speakers:
- Sona Dolasia: Founder, Reaching Out With Robotics: sdolasia@berkeley.edu
- Gowri Rao: Founder, CareerLark: gowri.s.rao@gmail.com

**Friday, March 6: The next “big thing”: future trends in tech**
Speakers:
- Cack Wilhelm: Venture capitalist, IVP (Institutional Venture Partners)
- Jill Richmond: Innovation strategist and Co-founder, Jewel

**Collaboration**
Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all of your work in this course is to be an individual effort. You are encouraged to discuss assignments with one another, your friends, and with the instructors. Indeed, this may be the most effective method of learning. However, all work submitted in your name must be your own. You may not copy in whole or in part from another student or from a website. Violations will be considered as cases of academic dishonesty and referred to the University Committee on Discipline. If you are found guilty, you may be given the failing grade WF in the course.

If any aspect of this policy is not clear to you, do not make assumptions; consult with the instructors.

**Students with Disabilities**
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructors 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.