

Intelligent Machine: The Computer in Popular Culture

CSE 097 • Spring 2007 • Professor Daniel Lopresti

No technology has had a bigger impact on society over the past 50 years than the computer. This 1-credit course will examine how computers – and the scientists and engineers who build and use them – have been portrayed in movies and literature. We will study both realistic, present-day depictions as well as dark, futuristic visions. By tapping the creative imaginations of filmmakers and authors, we will strive to acquire a deeper understanding of the ultimate potential of this “intelligent machine” that now pervades nearly every aspect of our lives.

Films we will watch include:

- ▶ *2001: A Space Odyssey* directed by Stanley Kubrick
- ▶ *The Net* starring Sandra Bullock
- ▶ *The Matrix* starring Keanu Reeves
- ▶ *I, Robot* starring Will Smith

Books we will read include:

- ▶ *The Soul of a New Machine* by Tracy Kidder
- ▶ *Snow Crash* by Neal Stephenson



The course will meet once a week on Fridays from 12:10 pm – 1:00 pm. Attendance at all classes and participation in online discussions is mandatory. Films will be scheduled for an evening screening and will also be available on reserve for individual viewing. A final 5-page essay will be required. Open to students from all majors, with no prerequisites. Contact the instructor for further details: dal9@lehigh.edu.

NEW 1-CREDIT COURSE!