Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Laura Mandell  
Course: ENGL 207  
Title: Human Thinking and Digital Culture

Description: This course asks, how can the data deluge and all the technologies surrounding it be transformed into wisdom and spur creativity? University professors in the set of disciplines called “the Humanities” study the best that has been thought in the world throughout history, and they also formulate new methods for thinking. This course introduces those thoughts and methods to students who plan to have careers in all walks of life, for the sake of teaching people advanced problem-solving skills and creative thinking. Additionally, new methods for advancing human thinking have been developed using digital tools and methods. This course gives to students –those who as yet have no experience – an overview of digital research culture. We will investigate two major questions: What can be discovered about humanity using new media technologies that we didn’t know before? How can human thinking be augmented by digital means—and what dangers do we confront?

Proposed Readings: Frankenstein, The Hacker Manifesto, and essays