Intelligent Machine: The Computer in Popular Culture

CSE 098 • Spring 2008 • 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 will include:
► *2001: A Space Odyssey* directed by Stanley Kubrick
► *The Net* starring Sandra Bullock
► *The Matrix* starring Keanu Reeves
► *I, Robot* starring Will Smith

Readings will include:
► *Snow Crash* by Neal Stephenson

Intelligent Machine will meet once a week from 12:10 – 1:00 pm on Wednesdays. Films will be scheduled for an evening screening and will also be available on reserve for individual viewing. Attendance at all classes and participation in online discussions is mandatory. 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.

SPRING 1-CREDIT COURSE!