INTEGRATED STUDIES (INTG)

INTG 2610 Emerging Technologies and the Future of the World
Technological change is always occurring, but the rate of change seems to be accelerating. Advances in robotics, artificial intelligence, cyber, biotechnology, and other arenas generate promise as well as peril for humanity. Will these emerging technologies unleash the innovative capacity of the world, generating new opportunities that help people live meaningful lives? Alternatively, are automation and other technologies chipping away at the labor market in a way that could create severe generational dislocation at best, and national and international turmoil at worst? These questions are important, and have consequences for how we live our lives, how nations interact, and the future of the world writ large. Emerging technologies could shape public policy at the local, national, and international level, and raise questions of fairness, ethics, and transparency. This course takes a unique approach, combining insights from engineering, political science, and law in an interdisciplinary way that will expose students both to the key technologies that could shape the future and ways to think about their potentia politics, and society.
Fall or Spring
Also Offered As: EAS 2610, PSCI 2401
1 Course Unit

INTG 3440 Curiosity: Ancient and Modern Thinking about Thinking
This course will examine two approaches to the still unanswered question of what happens when we humans come up with new knowledge. How should we describe the impulse, or set of impulses, that leads us to seek it? What is happening when we achieve it? And how do we describe the new state in which we find ourselves after we have it? We will study the work of contemporary physicists and cognitive scientists on these questions along side the approaches developed by the two most powerful thinkers from antiquity on the topic, Plato and Aristotle.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: CLST 3803, EAS 2440
1 Course Unit