

UH 4504 Honors Discovery and Innovation Studios

Fall 2017

Junior Honors standing required

SMART CITIES

Dr. Paul Knox; Dean, Honors College

3 credits

TR 3:30–4:45, location TBA

CRN 89398

This studio class will focus on disruptive technologies and their implications for cities and urban life. After reviewing the impact of disruptive technologies over past phases of urban development in North America and Western Europe, we will explore the idea of cities as complex systems. We will then turn our attention to newly emerging technologies and how they may be shaping cities and urban society.

Working collaboratively in small groups, students will identify and understand the ‘big questions’ posed by contemporary disruptive technologies and the prospect of ‘smart cities’. These include:

- Intelligent infrastructure and security issues
- Smart cities, democracy, and governance
- Smart cities and equity: who wins and who loses?
- Smart cities: Utopia or Dystopia?
- Smart cities: crowd sourcing and data mining
- Smart cities: key technologies
- Smart cities and corporate growth machines

WALL STREET

Dr. Dan Simundza; Research Specialist, Global Forum for Urban and Regional Resilience

3 credits

TR 3:30–4:45, location TBA

CRN 89399

This studio class will examine disruptions in the financial arena. We start with what has arguably been the most disruptive innovation: money (which, amongst other things, makes the world go ‘round, cannot buy love, and is the root of all evil). Central to our analysis is a focus on the institutions (e.g. commercial banks, markets, central banks, regulatory agencies) that have developed to facilitate financial transactions. We then study topics such as the proliferation of finance (“financialization”), the disruptions that occur when technology firms enter the financial industry (“fintech”), and what happens when it all goes wrong and catastrophe ensues (financial crisis).

Working collaboratively in small groups, students will identify and try to solve “big questions” that lie at the nexus of finance, technology, and society. These include:

- Does finance play too large of a role in our society?
- How can regulators keep up with the frenetic pace of innovation in the financial industry, and should they even try?
- Does the US need a “monetary constitution”? (If so, write it!)

GOING META: BIGGER DATA, DECISION-MAKING, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dr. Stephanie Lewis; Postdoctoral Associate, Honors College

3 credits

TR 2:00–3:15, location TBA

CRN 89397

This studio class will examine meta-analysis, a process by which researchers can use statistics to unify the quantitative and/or qualitative data on a given topic. This mathematical, synthetic process can be critical in establishing one’s knowledge within a field, looking for areas that need investigation, or making informed decisions.

Working collaboratively in small groups, students will learn how to do meta-analyses by examining the relationships among scientific research, decision-making, and social justice issues. Project topics include:

- diversity and inclusion initiatives
- access to medical care
- censorship of artistic expression

