

Hello World: Being Human in the Age of Algorithms

Fulfills the Writing Requirement

A critical writing seminar open to upperclassmen; fulfills writing requirement.

We will read Hannah Fry's best-selling, Hello World: Being Human in an Age of Algorithms, where we will learn about algorithms and how they are automating our everyday lives: justice, healthcare, transportation, art, and money. If you were charged with a crime, would you prefer an algorithm--a mathematical formula--or the biases and empathy of a judge and jury to determine your fate? Would you rather help medical researchers cure diseases by sharing your family's entire medical history, or protect your family's privacy and health insurance rates? Would you rather protect victims of crimes, or prevent innocent people from being falsely accused? After reading and analyzing this lively, thought-provoking book, students will develop individual research projects and use their findings to write a research-based paper and an Op-Ed. Other shorter assignments will include logical reasoning, academic reading and research, professional peer review, and writing for businesses and nonprofits. Dr. Kate Kramer, your seasoned critical writing seminar instructor, will be with you through the seminar every step of the way to ensure success.

Reading Assignments

* Course Text: Hello World by Hannah Fry
* Canvas Units and Attached Readings

* The articles and other readings/research that you generate for your writing projects

Writing Assignments

- Book Outline and 150-200-Word Summary
- White Paper (1,400-1,600 Words; 5+ Sources)
- Public Argument (600-750 Words)
- Reflection Letters (2x 1-1.25 Page[s])
- Job Cover Letter
- Résumé (1 Page)
- Peer Reviews
- PowerNotes Matrices
- Pre- and Post-Outlines
- In-Class, "On-Demand" Writing (2)
- Presentations (Elevator Pitch)

Grading

You will receive very clear assessment descriptions and frequent feedback. Course grades are distributed as follows:

- Coursework: 45% (all assignments and Midterm Portfolio)
- Final Portfolio: 45%
- Quality of Contributions: 10%