

Futures: Experiments in Technologies, Politics and the Arts

CTCS 478

Tuesdays 2:00-5:50PM

SCA 316

Professor Ella Klik



What does the future hold? How was the future imagined in the past? In order to investigate the meaning and significance of future visions, this elective course will work through a variety of historical developments, artistic investigations, philosophical ruminations, popular imagination, geopolitical events, economic interests, and environmental concerns. Between utopias and dystopias, future-oriented thought and aesthetics may ultimately also teach us something about our presents and pasts. With a focus on media and technology, each class is organized around one particular approach to the assertion “the future is.” Some of the topics we will cover in the class are Russian cosmism, the space race, Afrofuturism, techno-optimism, automation, and geoengineering. Students will engage with sources from art, literature, cinema, speculative design, history, and architecture. The course will culminate in the production of a research paper or a project that combines theory and a practice-based component.