

The Shock of the New

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Levels B2-C2

Objectives

From the light bulb and vaccines to smartphones and Facebook, seemingly innocuous inventions have come to shape our lives in sometimes unforeseen ways.

In this class, we will discuss and debate current trends and breakthroughs in innovation that have shaped our present and have the power to profoundly change our future. Using films, TED talks, articles and other media, we will look at innovations in the fields of technology, economics, business, infrastructure and more.

You will also be given the opportunity to come up with and present your own designs in response to challenges set by your peers.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated through their participation in in-class discussion as well as presentations. Written assignments will also be given, to be completed both in class and autonomously.

Autonomy

Students will work autonomously in groups to come up with and present a design based on a brief set by one of their peers. This semester-long project will require research into existing designs and the engineering and marketing demands of their proposed design.