New Explorations in Information and Science
COURSE SYLLABUS, FALL 2013

A VOYAGE OF THE STARSHIP NEXIS
http://starshipnexis.com

PRESENTED BY ANTHONY ROTOLO
AND THE CREW OF THE STARSHIP NEXIS

@StarshipNEXIS

Curious and informed exploration has produced the whole of human knowledge to date. We carefully study our home planet, Earth, with great reward. Navigators and pioneers have crossed hostile waters and untamed lands to unlock the wonders that awaited on the other side. The Universe itself is something to be observed and explored, first by those who looked up at the night sky with wide-eyed optimism, and then by those who left the planet to experience space first hand.

In any subject area, from the sciences to the arts, one may seek understanding through analysis of existing knowledge on the topic, but one can only evolve so far by learning only what others have already learned. Truly great explorers are not specialists; they seek something more. Equipped with knowledge on an array of topics, related or not, the explorer can address new and unexpected scenarios with a creativity and confidence not possible for those with only narrow expertise or an abundance of caution.

It is this spirit of wilful adventure and irreverence for established practice that we seek aboard the Starship NEXIS. We are the explorers of today. Our frontier is digital, made of bits and bytes rather than the atoms and molecules of land, sea and space. Like those navigators and investigators before us, we equip ourselves with the skills that will inform, guide and propel us in our modern pursuits.

MISSION OBJECTIVES //

New Explorations in Information and Science, or NEXIS Class, is a basic training for the Information Age. Upon completion of this course, cadets will be able to:

- Utilize essential information and communication skills and technologies in scientific and personal pursuits; including HTML, CSS, visual design, data collection, etc.
- Evaluate emerging trends in technology, making projections for future of technologies like the Quantified Self, the Maker Movement, Google Glass, and automated vehicles
- Demonstrate understanding of emerging fields at the intersection of Information and Communications, such as social networking and social network analysis
- Demonstrate understanding of emerging fields at the intersection of Information and Science, such as 3D Printing and the Internet of Things
REQUIRED TEXTS //

1. Operators Manual for Spaceship Earth by R. Buckminster Fuller
2. Makers by Chris Anderson
3. The Book on 3D Printing by Isaac Budmen and Anthony Rotolo

Books are available in digital and printed formats on Amazon.com and other retailers. The Book on 3D Printing will be available in early September

ASSESSMENT //

Failure is not an option; it is necessary.

Performance in this course is based on an achievement system consisting of basic and advanced achievements. A combination of achievements are required to receive a passing grade, as follows:

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<td></td>
<td>5 or more Basic Achievements + 2 or more Advanced Achievements</td>
<td>5 or more Basic Achievements + 1 or more Advanced Achievements</td>
<td>5 or more Basic Achievements</td>
<td>Less than 5 Basic Achievements</td>
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SAMPLE of ACHIEVEMENTS AVAILABLE //

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC /</th>
<th>ADVANCED /</th>
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<td>Acquire Required Books</td>
<td>Mastery of Book Concepts</td>
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<td>Boot Camp</td>
<td>CSS + Tumblr or Twitter Bootstrap</td>
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<td>Futurecaster</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Social Network Analysis</td>
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<td>Data Visualization</td>
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<td>Quantified Self</td>
<td>Quantified Self + Visualization</td>
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<td>3D Printing Parametric Model</td>
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SCHEDULE //

TBA
MESSAGES FROM OUR OVERLORDS //

Academic Integrity
The academic community of Syracuse University and of the School of Information Studies requires the highest standards of professional ethics and personal integrity from all members of the community. Violations of these standards are violations of a mutual obligation characterized by trust, honesty, and personal honor. As a community, we commit ourselves to standards of academic conduct, impose sanctions against those who violate these standards, and keep appropriate records of violations. The academic integrity statement can be found at: http://supolicies.syr.edu/ethics/acad_integrity.htm.

Disabilities
If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), http://disabilityservices.syr.edu, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Ownership of Student Work
This course may use course participation and documents created by students for educational purposes. In compliance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, works in all media produced by students as part of their course participation at Syracuse University may be used for educational purposes, provided that the course syllabus makes clear that such use may occur. It is understood that registration for and continued enrollment in a course where such use of student works is announced constitutes permission by the student. After such a course has been completed, any further use of student works will meet one of the following conditions: (1) the work will be rendered anonymous through the removal of all personal identification of the work’s creator/originator(s); or (2) the creator/originator(s)’ written permission will be secured. As generally accepted practice, honors theses, graduate theses, graduate research projects, dissertations, or other exit projects submitted in partial fulfillment of degree requirements are placed in the library, University Archives, or academic departments for public reference.

Faith-Based Observances
Syracuse University recognizes the diverse faith traditions represented among its campus community and supports the rights of faculty, staff, and students to observe according to these. A more detailed student policy can be found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious_observance.htm. Under this policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to religious observance provided they notify the university and their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. Students will have access to an online notification system for this purpose on MySlice during the first two weeks of the semester. Instructors will also have MySlice access to a list of students who have provided notification. We ask that you be as flexible as possible in accommodating these students.

Attendance Policy
Regular class attendance is obligatory. An instructor may recommend that a student be dropped from a course for poor achievement due to excessive absence. A student who is dropped after the deadline for dropping courses may be assigned a grade of F.