ECE 200 - ECE Explorations

Instructors:

Professor Kudeki is the official instructor for this course, but the seminar format means that every class has a different guest presenter.

Prerequisites:

This course has no prerequisites, and everyone is welcome; however, for some of the lectures, knowledge of basic ECE concepts taught in ECE 210 or 190 will help you to understand some of the presentations.

When to Take It:

James Scholars are required to take ECE 200 once a year after their Freshman year. Anyone can sign up for it, and it can be repeated as many times as desired. The class is open to anyone who wants to show up, even those who are not officially signed up for it. Many people may prefer to come when they see that the topic is something that interests them. Each week the topic is announce in The Wire and on the course's webpage.

Class Content:

Presentations are on various topics. Past classes have included:

- Microsoft talking about development of Bing
- LinkedIn talking about development of their search mechanisms
- Professor Smaragdis about "Making Machines Listen"
- Professor Wasserman talking about his research in near-IR wave propagation in materials
- RIM talking about the development of Near Field Communication in cell phones
- CISCO talking about "The Quest for the Largest Known Prime Number"
- PowerWorld talking about the power grid and the idea of the "Smart Grid."

The schedules (and abstracts) from past semesters are available on the course website. At the end of class, the department usually serves pizza and soda.

Work:

The grading for this class is Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and is based solely on attendance. Although typically scheduled 5-7pm on Wednesdays, most presentations end by 6pm (the Undergraduate Research Symposium is usually the exception). This class is 0 credit hours, so it doesn't count towards graduation.

Life After:

Many events are either corporations talking about what they do, or Professors talking about their research; thus ECE 200 is definitely a good networking opportunity. It is also a good place to relax and talk to fellow ECE students over free pizza.