

**Informal to Formal: The Evolution of an ISE Project into a Science Course***Jordan Hall 201*Informal Science  
Alumni Presentation

Course Design

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We have worked to evolve an informal science course based on the Science Flicks film series to a stand-alone course. The initial popularity of the film series created a student demand to design an academic course that would be based on the same themes. Originally, the course was integrated into the film series using a hybrid format that had the students attending public viewings every couple of weeks, performing research, and watching other films between showings. Eventually, the course became popular enough to stand on its own. However, in an unusual and unanticipated twist, the film series ceased operation because of low student demand. The course is now offered every semester and focuses on cinematically portrayed stereotypes of scientists, how those stereotypes have changed and continue to change over time, and what the stereotypes reveal about science itself. In addition to describing the course evolution, content, assessment and other dimensions, the presenters will focus on how student research projects that examine the effect of film on society have grown and evolved, as well.