Winter 2026 Double-Viewer Household

All Classes are Virtual and Will be Presented Via Zoom

Every Drop Counts: Advancing Water Equity and Access

Access to clean and affordable water is a human right. Unfortunately, there are many obstacles for some Michigan communities, particularly those populated primarily by marginalized groups. This presentation will review the history and status of PFAS (a "Forever Chemical") Contamination, Lead in Drinking Water Infrastructure, and associated Financial & Cost Burdens. Because improvement costs usually get passed on to consumers, low-income households are burdened with an inequitable share of the contamination and costs. Tools for impacting our collective future will be shared.

Dr. Rochelle Rubin has spent over 50 years as a science educator. Since retiring Rubin has worked on a variety of environmental and social justice related projects and committees including the Temple Kol Ami and NCJW Green teams. She and her husband Barry area activists supporting access to safe and affordable water for everyone.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED

Every Drop Counts: Advancing Water Equity and Access

In this dynamic talk, Katie A. Pfohl, associate curator of contemporary art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will discuss the ideas behind the museum's upcoming contemporary art reinstallation. Pfohl will discuss the vision behind the project, discuss some key works that will be included in the display, and share insights about how museums are moving into the future.

Katie A. Pfohl is a curator and writer who works to amplify the voices of artists, foster connections between communities, and create Space to engage with the urgent issues of our time. Since July 2022, she has served as Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, where she is organizing a reinstallation of the museum's contemporary galleries, and most recently curated Tiff Massey: 7 Mile + Livernois, which brought almost a quarter of a million visitors to the DIA.

Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

From Radicalization to Violence: Contemporary and Emerging Pathways

This class will discuss how extremists who commit violent crimes are different than non-offending extremists and non-extremist violent offenders. The presentation will provide insights into the risk and protective factors that increase or mitigate the risk of radicalization, extremism, and terrorism by focusing on important comparison groups. The presentation will include a discussion of how law enforcement responds to extremists and how

these comparisons might impact future responses.

Steven M. Chermak is a Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. Chermak has been one of the leading scholars developing the use of open-source materials to build and validate databases to systematically study rare events, such as terrorism, school violence, and mass shootings. These databases include the Extremist Crime Database, Risk and Protective Factor Database, the American School Shooting Study, and the Extremist Cybercrime Database. Recent publications have appeared in the Annual Review of Criminology, Criminology, Criminology and Public Policy, and Justice Quarterly.

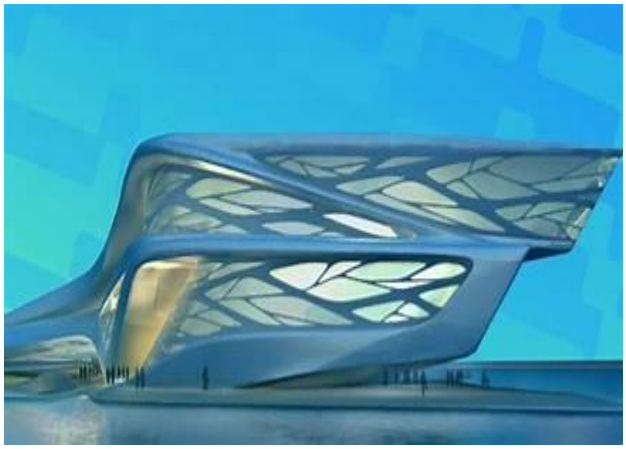
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED

Robotic Surgery Infused with Artificial Intelligence and Future Trends

What are the trends in the use of AI for medicine in general and with surgical robots in particular? We will discuss how the surgical systems of the future will become partners during surgery. The da Vinci Surgical Robot has transformed surgery, but it still relies on manual control. In this seminar, we present a prototype that adds a ChatGPT-powered voice interface, enabling the robot to understand natural, spoken commands—even in multiple languages—and translate them into precise actions. A demonstration of how this technology works will be shared, followed by a discussion about how AI could make robotic surgery safer in the future.

Dr. Abhilash Pandya has been a Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at Wayne State University since 2005. His main expertise is in surgical robotics systems and AI. Pandya also spent 10 years at the space center in Houston working on robotics and simulation with Lockheed Martin.

Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED



Future Architecture
This class examines the social, cultural, and environmental trends shaping the future of architecture and urban design. Participants will explore how these forces influence building practices and the evolution of cities. Special focus will be given to the climate crisis, highlighting the lack of urgency in addressing it and the need for more innovative, nature-centered solutions.

Stephen Vogel, FAIA is a Distinguished Professor and Dean Emeritus at the University of of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture and Community Development. His professional practice focused on multifamily mixed income housing, historic preservation and urban design and he received over 50 awards for design excellence from local and national organizations. He is a Richard Upjohn and Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED

The Future of Sustainable Food Systems: Diversifying Agriculture for Soil and Human Health

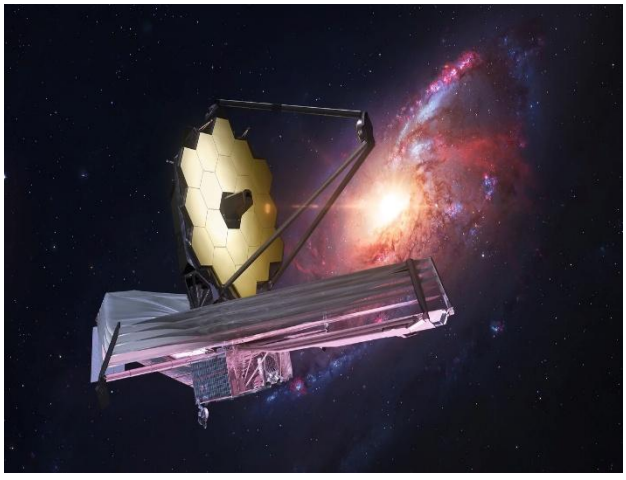
Growing awareness of agriculture's environmental and human health impacts is increasing pressure to develop more sustainable food systems. This class will discuss the complex challenges of sustainable food production, with an emphasis on research that applies ecological knowledge to manage agricultural diversity for multiple environmental and social benefits. The lecture will introduce the concept of soil health and soil health assessments and highlight challenges and benefits to increasing the presence of diversified farming systems for a more sustainable future.

Dr. Jennifer Blesh is an Associate Professor of Sustainable Food Systems in the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. Her research program focuses on understanding relationships between crop diversity and soil ecosystem functions, especially related to soil carbon and nutrient cycling.
Thursday, February 5, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED

The Future is Everywhere: How Artificial Intelligence is Shaping Our Everyday Lives

There's no escape! AI is now an embedded partner with our communications, healthcare, entertainment, finances, shopping, services, and more. From voice assistants to chatbot companions, from personalized medicine to AI-designed treatments … artificial intelligence is transforming how we live, connect, and even how we create. In this session, we'll explore the ways AI already affects us, while also questioning what this might mean for future generations.

Karen McDevitt has been teaching for Wayne State University's Media Arts & Studies program for over 20 years. Her courses included those in Film Theory, Media Analysis, and New Media Practices & Theory. Karen served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Film Theatre for 10 years and continues to serve as a member of the Editorial Board of Directors for the WSU Press.
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED



How the Webb Telescope is Reshaping our View of the Universe

A succession of great telescopes continues to expand our understanding of the universe. The James Webb Space Telescope is the latest of the great space observatories. Its capabilities as an infrared telescope allow it to probe through dust into the cores of galaxies, nebulae, and far beyond

anything possible with any previous telescope — back to the formation of the first stars and galaxies. The telescope's advancements and discoveries will be highlighted in this presentation.

Tim Campbell has always been interested in space. He was inspired by the Apollo missions as a child — and hooked when he saw the rings of Saturn through a telescope. Campbell is the president of the Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs and a past president and active member of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club in Michigan. He is also a planetarium operator and presenter at Henry Ford College and does numerous outreach events and talks both under the night sky and indoors.

Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED

Where We Go From Here: Resource Insecurity and Shifting Migration Patterns

Resource insecurity—lack of access to essential resources like food, water, or housing—is rising and impacting health across populations. While biological and disease differences exist, they are often shaped by migration, ecological, and environmental changes driven by resource threats. As climate events, inflation, infectious diseases, and political instability increase, environmental stress and migration patterns shift. This class will explore migration as adaptation, the social and health impacts of resource insecurity, and sustainable solutions.

Dr. Patrick Owuor is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at WSU. As a biocultural anthropologist, he studies how resource insecurity—such as water, food, and housing—affects health outcomes. His research includes exploring the biosocial impacts of infrastructure development on economically marginalized groups. Currently, he is investigating the link between environmental factors and neurological diseases in children in Kenya. Additionally, Dr. Owuor is committed to community-based research. He co-founded Pamoja Community-Based Organization, a nonprofit in Kenya that works with 35,000 families to overcome resource barriers.

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED

The Future Of Personalized Radiation Therapy For Cancer Patients

The field of radiation oncology has evolved with enhanced treatment techniques to improve cancer outcomes, including quality of life. In this class, we will review various advances, including novel approaches currently available at Henry Ford Health, such as MRI guided and CT guided adaptive radiation therapy. By adapting the radiation in real time, the patient receives personalized treatment. This has opened up new treatment paradigms that can be combined with novel surgical and systemic approaches. Ultimately, the goal is to achieve the best outcomes in terms of both quantity and quality of life.

Benjamin Movsas, M.D. is a recognized expert in the fields of radiation oncology and quality of life in cancer. He's published extensively and has been a leader in the most prominent academic organizations, including President of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), Society of Chairs of Academic Radiation Oncology Programs, and President of the American Radium Society (ARS). He serves as the Chair of the National Cancer Institute Patient Centered Outcomes Committee and is recognized as a Fellow of ASTRO, ARS, and the American College of Radiology.

Thursday, February 19, 2026 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM RECORDED