

Perspectives in Assistive Technology



Perspectives in Assistive Technology (ENGR110/210) is a **Winter Quarter** course open to students from every discipline and year that explores the design and use of technology that benefits people with disabilities and older adults.

Class sessions consists of semi-weekly guest lectures by assistive technology professionals, local field trips, an assistive technology faire, and a film screening.

Students pursue team projects that address problems faced by people with disabilities and older adults by understanding the problem, brainstorming, fabricating, and testing a series of increasingly refined prototypes. For students whose schedule does not permit working on a project, a lecture-only option is offered. **ENGR110/210** is a certified Service Learning Cardinal Course that satisfies the optional course requirement for the BSME degree and is approved for the Program in Science, Technology & Society, the Learning, Design & Technology Program in the Graduate School of Education, and the Bio-Science Area of Concentration in the Program in Human Biology.

Enrolled students are:

- Exposed to the engineering, medical, and social issues facing engineers, researchers, entrepreneurs, clinicians, older adults, and individuals with disabilities in the design, development, and use of assistive technology
- Engaged in projects that exercises team-working skills and applies an engineering design process to address difficulties experienced by individuals with disabilities and older adults
- Provided with opportunities to interact with users of assistive technology in the local community along with health care professionals, coaches, and project partners
- Given chances to enhance their critical thinking and communication skills, with specific emphasis on in-class discussions, report writing, and project presentations
- Encouraged to use their engineering skills and design expertise to help individuals with disabilities and older adults in the local community increase their independence and improve their quality of life

The overall intent of the course is to provide a comprehensive experience wherein students call upon their newly acquired knowledge, perform fabrication tasks, and practice oral and written communication skills that will instill practical engineering design and problem solving confidence in preparation for their future careers.

For more information about the course or its projects, please visit the course website at <http://enr110.stanford.edu> or contact the instructor, David L. Jaffe, at davejaffe@stanford.edu.

