**STEM in Society: Communicating Science & Technology Concepts to Public Audiences**

**Instructor:**

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**Keywords**: Communication, Community Engagement/Public Education, Museum Studies, STEM

**Summer College 2021 session dates:**

* (Preferred) 6-week session: Tuesday, July 6, to Friday, August 13, 3-4:30 PM

**Description**

Before a scientific discovery or technological innovation can receive a patent, win a grant award, influence policy, or effect change, it must first be communicated and explained – both to other scientists and to a variety of public audiences, from research funders and policymakers to schoolchildren and their parents.

Using insights from history as well as the fields of museum studies, communications, and public education/outreach, this course will explore the theory and practice of educating, informing, and engaging public audiences about science and technology concepts, particularly in the context of public institutions like museums.

Facilitated by the current Director of Education & Programming at the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (MOST) in downtown Syracuse, this course offers students the opportunity for practice-based experience in science writing and journalism, digital content creation, public speaking, grant writing, and museum exhibition and workshop design.

**Objectives**

During this course, students will be empowered to:

* Develop ability to communicate concepts in STEM to a variety of public audiences through practice-based and real-world experience
* Improve and expand skillsets in writing, public speaking, and critical reading
* Gain knowledge and insight into the history and theory of scientific, technological, and societal change
* Understand and explore methods and best practices for public engagement, including consideration of representation, inclusion, and accessibility