Everywhere you look, life is being hacked. Whether it’s through the use of fitbits and diet regimens to achieve the perfect body, checklists to minimize accidental deaths in hospitals, or redistricting and electronic voting machines to win elections, every aspect of contemporary life has become something you can hack, for better or for worse.

In this course, we will take hacking as a form of design: a style of thinking and acting that attempts to reshape the world. In such a world, what might be the task of the anthropologist? And what might be learned from an encounter between design and anthropology? In this course, we will explore how life is being hacked and redesigned through a creative exploration of the work of anthropologists, designers, architects, art historians, artists, filmmakers, sound producers, and others.