

***Back to the Future: ACES 399 – Reflecting on the Past and Looking  
Towards the Future***

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The year 2050 still seems too far away to even think about, right? However, 35 years are all that separate us from 2050, which when looking at the world today and where we need to be in 2050, is not enough time. Many of us have heard of the numerous challenges our world is facing today: overpopulation, water and food shortages, global warming, and the list goes on and on. How are we going to address these challenges in an effective and timely way? Ask any **ACES 399** student from the spring of 2015, and they will be able to offer insight to all of these topics and many others.

**ACES 399: Vision 2050 – Grand Challenges of the Millennium** explores many of the major crises the world is facing today through faculty presentations and also group work. Instructed by the ACES Honors Dean, Dr. Soo Lee, students are able to hear in person how professionals in their respective fields are in fact addressing any number of challenges we are currently facing or will be facing by 2050. The University of Illinois is such a large and diverse institution that it is often impossible to know of all the fantastic work that is being done by faculty. **ACES 399** invites several professionals of different departments across campus to offer their insight as to how we can improve the current world we live in and also prepare it for future generations. Additionally, not only will students grow their knowledge by taking **ACES 399**, but also by completing this course with a grade of at least a **B-**, students earn one credit hour and also can substitute this class for one of their Honors Credit Learning Agreements.



This photo of Earth was taken by NASA's *Discover* satellite from its million-mile-high orbit on **July 6, 2015**. (Photo Credit: NASA – Public Domain)

Before enrolling in **ACES 399** last spring, I can honestly say I had no idea what state our world is currently in. It may seem like an intimidating idea, but our generation must be the one to bring stability and also answers to the challenges we are facing. I have a whole new perspective on my role in the world moving forward and am excited to bring fresh ideas and insight to the future. **ACES 399** is a fantastic class and broadened my knowledge far beyond what I thought possible. Prepare for the future, and start by enrolling in **ACES 399** today!