Title: Magic – The Art and Theory of Deception, 2 Units

Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Facilitator: Young Cai

Course Description:

This DeCal course is about learning and performing magic as well as understanding the psychology behind how tricks deceive people’s perceptions. You will learn the history, basic theories, psychology, and skills behind magic so you can understand the fundamental aspects of what make magic an amazing and deceptive art form and perform tricks for real people, sharing with them a wonderful and unforgettable experience. All skill levels are welcome, and we will primarily focus around card magic that can be performed in an intimate or public setting. For the midterm, students choose a magic trick they like and perform it for people around campus, and for the final, students will demonstrate a mastery of sleight-of-hand techniques taught in class that will enable them to create tricks of their own. While we teach many secrets of the trade, the main purpose of this course is to illustrate the true beauty of magic and integrate magic into students’ lives by giving them the confidence and creativity to learn and perform magic. Whether you want to simply improve your social standing by being able to perform amazing tricks to, learn the ingenuity and creativity of the methods behind magic tricks, or understand the psychological aspects that magicians exploit to make a magic trick truly deceptive, this class is for you!