

LEH300	Auslander, Diane	Heroes and Villains: Medieval Men in Contemporary Film	In this course we will focus on heroes and villains through a consideration of the medieval ideology of kingship and the warrior and by examining how this ideology is manipulated in film to present concepts of heroism and villainy in our own time. Medieval kings were often sinners of enormous capacity. They were cunning and vicious warriors and even murderers, as were the heroes of the time. They were promiscuous and greedy for land and power. At the same time, the Christian Church needed these kings to help spread Catholic doctrine and maintain stability in a violent world. Therefore, the church developed ideals of Christian kingship, and even sainted some kings, in the hopes of controlling violence and providing themselves with powerful partners that would protect the church. There were two other influential models of kingship in this era, however, and they too captured the imagination of heroes and kings. One of these was the ideal of the powerful Roman Emperor, a dictator who brings unity, peace, and prosperity and whose will is absolute. The other is that of the barbarian Germanic war chief. The combination of these three elements, Christian ideals, Roman power, and Germanic warrior ideologies, influenced concepts of western kingship and warrior chivalry during the Middle Ages. As the Winter Session is so compact, I have had to narrow my focus so that we will be concentrating mainly on England. We will watch a group of movies that can be seen to address the issues of king/hero, pagan/Christian, saint/sinner. We will read primary and secondary sources and watch educational videos that provide information on the actual historical period and the kings and heroes, saints and sinners, portrayed in these movies in an effort to understand how the past is manipulated in the present and how these images from the past can be made to address the values, needs, and psyche of our own time.
LEH300	Belousova, Katia	Sexuality and Sex Roles in Transnational Perspective	The course is designed to introduce the key concepts and debates in the discussion of human sexuality within social sciences and humanities, but primarily from cultural anthropological perspective. Cultural constructivist approach regards everyday behaviors, ideologies and practices as cultural constructs pertinent to particular culture and imposed on its members through the variety of media. Using various theoretical frames, we will look into economic, social and cultural reasons standing behind the development of sexual roles and identities in a particular culture. The topics under discussion will include the distinction between gender and sex, sexual roles and performativity, interconnections of sexuality with gender, class and race, the issues of family and body politics, power and knowledge. Special attention will be given to the mobility of practices and transnational influences characteristic of globalization. Students are expected to study class readings and actively participate in online discussions, posting weekly reading responses and commenting on their peers' statements. Besides reading the articles, students will watch videos on the topics discussed and navigate relevant websites. Students will have a chance to conduct their own ethnographic research projects exploring sexuality issues within their home communities.
LEH300	Boone, Ralph	Black Russians	Black Russians exams the history of Blacks in Russia from their earliest mentions in the classical writings of Ovid and Pindar through to present day Russia, paying particular attention to how African-Americans vs. Africans are viewed by Russian society in the 21st century. We also examine examples of the various groups that went to Russia and the Soviet Union - writers, agriculturalists, artists, laborers, sojourners, - in order to better understand the allure that Russia and the Soviet Union held for these groups. We will also examine the journey of a black girl through three generations starting with the pre-Soviet, pre-World War II years and ending in 2011.
LEH301	Castro, Marsham	American Outlaw as Anti-Hero in Film and Literature	Centered on the disciplines of literature and film with an underlying cultural studies component, this American Outlaw course will examine real and fictional outlaws and gangsters of the 19th and 20th century for an understanding of their attraction to the public. In the process we will examine the "gangster/outlaw" reflection in literature and film that ultimately determines the mood of the country at any given decade. During our short semester, you will view approximately 8 films, read one short nonfiction and excerpts from another nonfiction. You will also read excerpts from biographies and memoirs that are posted in our Bb online library. For literature we will examine excerpts from works that are all accessible online.
LEH301	Cromer, Risa	Human Rights in Latin America	This course provides an interdisciplinary overview of human rights (e.g. political, social, cultural and economic rights) and their abuses in Latin America. Child soldiers, urban gangs, street children, indigenous rights movements, coca grower movements, drug trafficking, human trafficking, government corruption, illegal land grabs, free trade zones, and rural to urban migration are among the issues affecting, challenging and shaping human rights in Latin America today. What happens when rights collide? Who decides which rights are valid? These questions and issues will be considered in the course as we examine rights issues from Mexico to Central America and the Caribbean, through the Andes and down to the Southern Cone.
LEH301	Duncker, Judith	Special Issues in US Foreign Policy	Part One of this cutting edge course will focus on four contemporary major global trends faced by the United States in its relationship with the rest of the world: a) globalization, b) the nation's chronic deficits, c) information technology advances, and d) increasing energy consumption. The course will examine foreign policy prescriptions for moving ahead in these areas in the coming millennium. Part Two of the course will analyze several key US Foreign Policy issues: a) The global financial crisis and the role played by governments and banks; b) U.S.-India Relations and Implications for the American Workforce; c) U.S.-China Trade Relations and their Challenges; d) Immigration Policy and U.S.-Mexican Relations; e) the Internet, Terrorism and Cyber Warfare; f) The future of Eurozone; g) The Future of Globalization and h) the Turmoil in the Middle East. Each analysis will identify past, present and future developments crucial to each area and will identify key local and international players and what is at stake for each. With every issue area discussed, students will be encouraged to locate themselves in the larger global political economy - both as students and as present and future members of the American work force. Based on the analyses, students will be encouraged to creatively generate new strategies for themselves in order to successfully navigate the rapidly moving and rapidly morphing economy - strategies that will allow them to not only remain globally competitive but also to carve out a leadership niche for themselves in this globalized world.
LEH300	Francis, Angela	Obsession and Infatuation	It is often said that in order to be successful one must be dedicated to and passionate about one's goals. Yet in a world where it is considered a virtue to be exceptionally driven and, for that matter, exceptionally exceptional, it is all too easy to cross the line into an experience of obsession. This people may become anxiously obsessed with a wide range of things—their physical appearance, their prospects of academic or professional success, the threat of a seemingly life-shattering event—and often also endure an often painful obsession centered around the people they love or desire. In this class we will look to psychological, sociological, and philosophical theories regarding obsession as we trace the changes in how it has historically been understood and question its role in our lives. We will ask ourselves: when is obsession helpful and when does it hinder us? How has it altered the way we live our lives and love those who are closest to us? The readings will be culled from theoretical texts combined with a selection of creative fiction and nonfiction (including two longer works and a film), and the students will be responsible for completing an average of 40-50 pages per week.
LEH300	Garrin, Stephen	Weimar Cinema	The German cinema of the Weimar Republic inspired the whole world with its new techniques, new approaches, and some superior works of art. The development of the German film is important not just as a mirror of contemporary hopes, fears and illusions, but above all because it was of intrinsic interest. During the First World War most foreign films were banned in Germany. As a result the domestic film industry emerged in a strong position in 1918, with no less than 130 production companies. The formation of UFA (Universum-Film AG) on December 18 1917, initiated a series of mergers, and from 1918-1933 the German film industry ranked second only to Hollywood, encouraged by government support, protectionism, and favorable exchange rates. Scale was not the only way in which early Weimar cinema celebrated a new sense of liberation. Sexual freedom, encouraged by the temporary relaxation of censorship, spawned a plethora of so-called Aufklaerungsfilm ("educational films") during the 1920s. What was the specific character of the German film? Strictly speaking there was no "German film," or "German School." There were only German film makers and they were highly individual in character. In this course we will view and examine representative examples of Weimar Cinema from <i>The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari</i> through <i>The Blue Angel</i> . In order to fully appreciate these films we will begin with an overview of post World War I Germany and the new German Republic; the political, social, economic and cultural backdrop.
LEH301	Gersh, Sheila	Using Multimedia to Visualize American Culture	Culture, cultural diversity and multiculturalism constitute some of the most significant social issues in America today. Oriented around the core concept of culture and cultural groups, the course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts of culture and cultural diversity, and develop an awareness and appreciation for the full range of diversity in the American (U.S.) culture. Through the use of information technology and digital collections to learn about American Culture students will study of culture, historic topics about American, general ideas about American culture, and specific aspects of American culture in order to gain a deeper understanding about America. Student investigations will produce education "American Culture Quilt" websites from which other can learn.
LEH301	Hagan, Special	Law in American Life: A Pre-Law Perspective	This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the American judicial system and its origins. Throughout the course of the semester students will learn and debate Supreme Court decisions from this term along with other cases in the news. The cases discussed will cover the following practice areas: mass tort litigation; criminal law; criminal procedure; family law; health care practice; and immigration law. Upon completion of the course, students should have accomplished the following tangibles: Possess a working knowledge of basic legal vocabulary. Have a basic understanding of the legal system and the origins of the American judicial system; and be able to converse and debate some of the cases covered in the media and recently heard by the Supreme Court.
LEH300	Hyman, David	Retellings, Revisions, Adaptations	Of all the qualities of narratives, one of the most persistent is the fact that the best of them are retold. But these retellings are never identical. Their differences, as much as their similarities, testify to both the enduring power of certain narratives, and the ways in which different cultural and historical times, places, and discourses shape these narratives to serve their own needs and desires. While the relationship between different versions of the "same" story has always involved ambiguities and paradoxes, these have increased dramatically in recent years, when the impact of new media versions of stories has proliferated, and new kinds of retellings have begun to emerge, such as the reboot and the prequel. This course will trace several key stories as they manifest themselves in multiple versions across both temporal and spatial divides. Among these are: the various versions of <i>Cinderella</i> ; Ian Fleming's iconic spy James Bond; reboots of older film and television series such as <i>Star Trek</i> and <i>Batman Begins</i> ; the multiple revisions of the British sf series <i>Dr. Who</i> ; adaptations, updates and retellings of Shakespeare; Japanese cinematic "retellings" of the Hollywood Western such as <i>Seven Samurai</i> and <i>Vojimbo</i> ; and the fluid multi-textual history of figures from Greek mythology such as Orestes, Odysseus and Heracles.

LEH301	Johnson, Geoff	Hip-Hop and the Urban Crisis	Welcome to LEH 301! I am very excited to be teaching this course, Hip-Hop and the Urban Crisis, which will draw on the disciplines of history, sociology, and music. Our focus will be American cities post-World War II and particularly the so-called "urban crisis" first described in the 1960s. Like most LEH courses this class will place a great deal of emphasis on reading, writing, and in-class discussion. However, as part of our in-class discussion we will also be listening to, and talking about, a lot of music—specifically hip-hop. This is not a "history of hip-hop" class (though we will deal with that), rather hip-hop music and culture will be used as a point of entry for our discussion about urban history and urban culture in recent decades. I hope that this will be a very fun and informative course, and perhaps a favorite class for some of you, but a lot of that will depend on you the students. I want to give students a lot of control over the weekly discussion and the direction the course takes, so if you come to class prepared and ready to engage with the complex issues we are discussing the class will be much more rewarding for all of us.
LEH300	Joyce, Regina	Criminal Obsessions: Crime, the State and Global Disorder	The 19 th and 20 th centuries have seen events reflecting colonialism, post colonialism, totalitarianism, torture and killing. Now the 21 st century is starting to take shape, with social groups laboring toward democracy and equality amidst struggles of illegality and criminality. If the elements of this emerging pattern prove to be true, the following questions seem to prevail. How does violent crime appear in, mix with, match or transcend different regions and nation states? How does global power produce disturbing preoccupations and unhealthy motivations for successful 21 st century living? Where are society, politics, religion, gangs, drugs, immigration, literature and corporate greed located, in this worldwide arena? Where is the murky line really drawn between order and chaos, legal and illegal, and culture and identity? This course will attempt to answer these varied questions. Through a wide variety of books and texts, it will enter into this dark world, where gangs, organized crime, trafficking, terror networks and national/international security systems all intertwine, making it almost impossible for individuals or nationals of whatever country to hide from the giant shadow of criminal activity.
LEH300	Kandel, Matt	Political Economy, Race and Gender	If American society has not seen such current levels of economic inequality since before the Great Depression, what does this mean for our country today? What does our future hold if America is actually so divided? This course will focus on some of the most pressing issues that are confronting our society today. For instance, who or what social group has the most power—politically, economically, culturally—in the country? Is America really a "classless" society as has long been thought by many, or a divided one? How have American workers historically fought back when they have felt that their fundamental rights have been threatened? Beginning the course by asking the questions, "what is 'class'?" and "is America really a class divided society?" we will then continue by looking at moments of rebellion and resistance by American workers in the 20th and 21st centuries. The latter half of the course is structured around two central questions: Who "rules" America? And does "class" matter? Throughout the semester, we will draw on a variety of texts and a number of films (documentaries and movies) that probe these important issues.
LEH301	Lessing, Shana	The Politics of Religious Freedom in the US	The United States is founded upon the principles of freedom of religion, yet we have not always had an easy time understanding and applying those principles – when faced with controversial religious practices such as animal sacrifice, faith healing, polygamy, homeschooling, school prayer, or the ritual use of illegal drugs, Americans have had to ask themselves: what does freedom of religion really mean in the United States? Are all religions and denominations equally protected under the law, or are some religions 'freer' than others? We too will ask ourselves these questions, as we probe the limits of 'religious freedom' in both theory and practice. Utilizing historical texts, legal documents, and perspectives from sociology, anthropology, and religious studies, we will investigate (a) the origins of 'freedom of religion'; (b) the Constitutional guarantee of this freedom and precedent-setting Court cases (c) the impact of immigration, religious conflict and, recently, the 'War on Terror,' on our understandings of religious freedom; (d) U.S. promotion of religious freedom as a global value.
LEH300	Murdaco, Barry	Nihilism in Interbellum Germany	This course will focus on German culture and art produced in the interbellum period between World War I and II. The devastating experiences of the first war, the psychological trauma of losing the war, followed by economic depression and the rise of political extremism all contributed to a unique cultural perspective that still has value today. Germans were forced to confront a sense of nihilistic meaninglessness in the world brought on by a dehumanizing technological rationality that seemingly crushed humanity rather than elevating it. The possibilities of authentic experience and man's place in the universe were other areas of concern as Germans struggled to find a sense of meaning in a world that has seemingly lost all meaning. Forced to confront hard questions regarding the supposed superiority of Western civilization and notions of progress in civilization, the German response to these questions remains a vital part of culture today.
LEH301	Osierkis, Ray	Booms and Busts in US History	We will study economic contraction and expansion in several selected eras of US History. In the first half of the course, we will focus on events through the 1980s. In the second half of the course, we will focus especially on the events immediately preceding, during, and following our most recent boom and bust cycle. We will pay special attention to possible causes of economic growth and contraction, but we will also focus on the often-related subject of 'booms and busts' in asset prices.
LEH300	Quarrell, Susan	Folk and Literary Fairytales	Disseminated across a wide variety of media from opera to film, fairy tales have continued to flourish kept alive over time by their ability to portray universal human emotions. Exploring their historical and cultural origins and their psychological aspects, this course seeks to examine the cultural legacy of classic fairy tales as a repository of male anxiety and desire and as a model for female fantasy and anticipation. We will watch the opera Bluebeard, cartoon The Little Mermaid, and the film Pan's Labyrinth, and in addition to reading closely the fairy tales we will look at sexual politics in Michael Foucault's The History of Human Sexuality: An Introduction, feminism in Angela Carter's reworking of Perrault's fairy tale, Bluebeard in The Bloody Chamber, and psychology in Bruno Bettelheim's The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales to come to the greater understanding of the Classic fairy tale not simply as fairy stories but the broader context of powerful male desire and how women are portrayed.
LEH300	Quarrell, Susan	Widows and Maids: Medieval Images of Women in Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales"	The Middle Ages, despite the pervasive presence of a gloomy repressive church, was a period of immense social change and lively discourse. At the center of this discourse is Geoffrey Chaucer—considered by many to be the father of English literature. In this course we will examine the Middle Ages and the images of medieval women that emerge as portrayed by Chaucer in his work The Canterbury Tales. We will explore elements of history, economics, sociology, and psychology represented by such figures as the Prioress, Griselda (the Clerk's Tale), and the Wife of Bath, discovering the tensions inherent in the progress of women in medieval society. Discussions of women in the Tales will touch upon the question of whether women are good or bad—modeled on either the Virgin Mary or Eve. Students will gain an understanding of the influence of gender on individual behavior, as well as on contemporary institutions of marriage, workplace, and church.
LEH301	Ricourt, Milagros	Contemporary Dominican Society	"Contemporary Dominican Society" discusses the economic, political, social, and cultural developments in present Dominican Republic. In so doing, this course engage in analyzing the following: the country's economy based on tourism and export oriented industries in the frame of neoliberal policies; the political configuration of the country taking into consideration political parties, government, and civil society; socio-cultural dynamics such as music, cinema, and literature; and the impact of Diaspora in the economic, political, and cultural on the country of origin and countries of destination.
LEH301	Shloznikova, Katherine	Humor: Symptom of American Culture	Laughter is not an easy matter. Why do humans laugh but not animals? Why do some consider comedy to be more tragic than tragedy? We will first examine humor in its relation to pleasure and pain, happiness and unhappiness, creativity and gender. We will look at the mechanisms of jokes and psychological structures of wit, irony and sarcasm (Freud). Our readings/media will include: new and old comedy (Shakespeare and Woody Allen); satire (Lucian and Colbert Report); tragicomic (Beckett and Garcia Marquez). Then we will examine humor in American culture: stand-up comedy, TV shows, comics and humor in art. Students will submit 2 short papers; there will be a final exam.
LEH300	Shouler, Ken	Why People Believe in Weird Things - Superstitions, Cultural Dumbing, and the Logic of Baloney Detection	This course will use critical thinking skills to cut through the weird beliefs in this culture and others. What place do claims about paranormal experiences — ESP, telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, and ghosts have in our education? Are there insights to be gained from reading tarot cards, practicing palmistry, astrology, viewing crystals and more? Many people claim that logic and critical thinking are too limited to settle all claims of knowledge, and thus allow themselves to be beguiled with superstitions. The course will explain the rudiments of critical thinking (logical fallacies, the essentials of valid arguments, and so on) that are needed to separate genuine from disingenuous knowledge claims.
LEH300	Stern, Alisa	The Holocaust in History, Literature and Film	Studying the Holocaust calls into question many of the fundamental values of Western civilization, and humanity in general. More than half a century later the Holocaust still haunts Western society and continues to influence our social, political, legal and cultural institutions. This course will examine the full context of the defining event of the 20 th century - the Nazi "Third Reich" and its unprecedented genocide. Through the lens of history, literature and film we will look at the nature of anti-Semitism and its extreme metamorphosis in Nazi ideology, Hitler's rise to power, the Final Solution, rescue and resistance, and the response of the world at large.
LEH300	Viano, Bernado	Mexican Muralism: Revolution and Other Universal Themes	This course explores the interaction of a national, public art (mural painting) and a social event (the Mexican Revolution 1910). Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, among others, created world-famous murals; their themes are universal, but two dominate: the experience of the Mexican Revolution and the concern of the place of human kind within the 20th century. The Revolution left its indelible mark on Mexican narrative as well; thus, we will read two novels that have something in common with the structure and thematic of muralismo mexicano.
LEH301	Weisz, Carole	The Pursuit of Happiness: A Cinematic View of Gender & the American Dream	The Pursuit of Happiness traces the evolution of the American dream over seventy years of film history, focusing on the differences in the experiences, perceptions, and psychologies of the male versus the female in American culture. The course focuses on the following: (a) key themes and fantasies implicit in the American dream, (b) key symbols and how they differ for males and females, (c) theories of American culture and psychology, (d) a focus on the American dream of today—the positive and negative sides. The course is divided chronologically into decades, with a film that focuses on the male in American society, and one that focuses on the female, thus providing comparison of the experiences, perceptions and psychologies of each. The course will combine a historical, cultural, and psychological perspective of the cinema that reflects the pursuit of happiness in America.