

Winter 2016

January 4 – January 22, 2016

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

- **Tpcs in Met Studies: Cinema and Contemporary Urbanism / SCA-UA 680.001**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Prof. Sukhdev Sandhu

This class explores critical issues in contemporary urbanism through the prism of a diverse and international body of cutting-edge documentary and feature films. Drawing on an equally broad range of theoretical and historical texts, we will investigate topics such as psychogeography, catacombism, landscape hacking, surveillance, slum urbanism and many more. We will also look at the specific role of cinema in generating, framing and circulating emergent notions about the modern city. Films to be studied may include: 'The Gleaners and I', 'Children of Men', 'Manufactured Landscapes', 'Helvetica', 'War In Mostar'. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AMST, APA, MET, SCA; Counts as Common Elective for majors only.)

- **Tpcs: Disability and Sexuality in American Culture / SCA-UA 481.001**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Prof. Michael Ralph

How do we define a "normal" body? A healthy body? How do we define abnormal or unhealthy bodies? This course will examine disability as it is culturally-constructed, experienced, and represented by analyzing the complicated cultural significance of embodiment. We will examine major strands of disability theory, relating them to and understanding them through disability history, lived experience, activist movements, and cultural production. Although medical institutions have constructed disability and disease through ideas of cure and rehabilitation, we will analyze cultural meanings of disability and ability in mainstream and independent film, television, memoir, popular literature, and stand-up comedy. Through the lenses of queer, disability, and feminist theory, we will not only interrogate the issue of sexuality in the lives of people with disabilities, but also we will think critically about the role of disability and able-bodiedness in constructing norms of gender and sexuality. Students will perform cultural critique using the tools of disability and queer studies to analyze the cultural construction of "healthy" and "unhealthy" bodies, normal/abnormal bodies, dis/ability, sexuality, and mental capacity. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFR, AMST, GSS, LAT, SCA; Counts as Common Elective for majors only.)