

NTC 2018-19 Seminar Schedule

American Studies

Intersectionality: Theoretical Origins, Debates, Applications

Marjorie Jolles, Roosevelt University

October 4, 2018

In the nearly three decades since critical race theorist Kimberlé Crenshaw published "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex" to describe complexities of identity and injustice, the term "intersectionality" has become a cultural meme. Its increasing popularity among activists suggests the term has strong relevance for understanding contemporary social issues; at the same time, its widespread circulation in popular discourse has led to various misinterpretations and misuses. This seminar explores Crenshaw's foundational texts, to equip us to use intersectional theory effectively to better understand identity and experience in both analysis and politics. The seminar will include discussion of challenges and opportunities for teaching about sameness, difference, and power.

History (United States)

War's Broken Boundaries

Nora Eltahawy, Independent Scholar

October 10, 2018

War, as a certain popular lyric goes, is good for absolutely nothing. But can it help us see ourselves in a different light? In this seminar, we will use this guiding question in order to explore how some of the most important events in American military history have given rise to new ways of conceiving of the United States and of the various aspects of life within it. We will turn our attention to a wide range of works, including Kurt Vonnegut's WWII satire *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Vietnam-era protest songs, and Maximilian Uriarte's *The White Donkey*, a graphic novel about the Iraq War and PTSD. As we work our way through these texts and others, we will focus on content, examining how wars have affected the representation of gender, race, age, and sexuality in the US, as well as to form, exploring how authors have called on experimental styles and new or unusual genres in their attempts to depict the magnitude of wartime. We will ask such questions as: In what ways have wars--or the protests that surrounded them--helped shape youth culture in the US? How are women represented in times of war versus times of peace? And how do we think of WWII differently if we read about it in a graphic novel about mice?

American Studies

Age of Anxiety: Social Media and Mental Health

Stephanie Hansard, Birmingham-Southern College

October 12, 2018

Those of us who work with adolescents and young adults are working with the most anxious generation of young people in recent history. Educators and researchers alike believe that social media is a contributing factor to the anxiety epidemic. What exactly does social science research tell us about the link between social media and anxiety? What can we, as educators, do to help our students navigate a social landscape which is simultaneously constantly connected and increasingly isolated? In this workshop, we will discuss several ways in which social media contributes to mental health in general and anxiety specifically. We will also explore how this body of knowledge can be deployed to help our students live happier, calmer lives.

Literature & Drama (British)

Edgar and Edmund: Uncanny Twins in Shakespeare's King Lear

Michael McShane, Carthage College

October 12, 2018

Because of its intimidating grandeur, Shakespeare's *King Lear* is rightly regarded by many as the Mount Everest of English literature. The masterwork can certainly be overwhelming in its scope. Therefore, reading is sometimes easier if one starts with a particular angle of approach. Hence, in this seminar we will consider the play through a special focus on the two brothers, Edgar and Edmund. On the surface, one brother is seemingly good and the other evil. Closer reading, however, reveals that the two diametrically opposed siblings hold much in common. Sometimes the two even seem to share the same thoughts, for instance. Further questions concern the symbolic significance of twins in literature more generally. The seminar will consider the uncanny rhythms of the brothers' convergence and divergence as they move across the arc of the drama. A focus on the two strange brothers will perhaps open broader vistas on the meaning of Shakespeare's most sublime drama.

Literature & Drama (World)

A Complicated Man: Charismatic Odysseus

Seemee Ali, Carthage College

October 15, 2018

"You too have been spellbound by magical voices, sweet voices with strange melodies. . . . You have angered people you should not have." Thus Bob Dylan explains (in his 2016 Nobel Prize Lecture) how the Homeric Odyssey inspires his own bardic compositions. In this seminar, we will consider what the Odyssey enacts and what it teaches us about the spellbinding power of a well-told tale. We will pay particular attention to Odysseus' own storytelling in Books 9-12, which contains perhaps the most famous - and most unbelievable - of Odysseus' adventures. In this portion of the epic, Odysseus recounts his own fantastic exploits to the Phaiakians, a people renowned for their hostility to strangers. Odysseus cannot reach home without their help. His tales are the only payment he can offer for his safe passage back to Ithaka - and the singular means of persuasion to effect his homecoming.

Politics Science & Economics

Changing Economic Times: How current US foreign policy has impacted globalization and trade in the wo

Jennifer Clark, Roosevelt University

October 17, 2018

The United States has traditionally been a leader in the effort to increase globalization and free trade throughout the world. However, our current administration has taken a different path. This seminar will explore how changes in trade policies have affected different industries, the US economy at large and the role of the United States in foreign investment and development. Who benefits from our trade policies and who does not? Are tariffs the best way to protect American jobs? Do international trade agreements lead to an increase in trade and production or do they just limit future economic policy decisions? We will look at the economics behind the headlines.

History (European)

The Irish Question: From a United Kingdom to Brexit, NTC+

Keelin Burke, Newberry Library

October 18, 2018

The history of the relationship between Ireland and Britain is one fraught with religious tensions, rebellion, political activism, outright war and sometimes fragile peace. In this seminar, we will examine the history of the "Irish Question," or the Irish pursuit of national autonomy, within the wider context of European, colonial, and contemporary history. Starting with the Act of Union of 1801, we'll consider the rise of Irish nationalism, the intrusion of Irish matters into British politics writ large, failed and successful Irish rebellions, partition, Northern Ireland and the Troubles, and the lingering effects of the Irish question well into the 21st century. In the course of this discussion, we will read and discuss primary sources on the subject, and consider the resonances of this history down to the present, with particular attention to the current "Brexit" moment.

World Studies

The Zong Massacre, the film Belle, and the Atlantic World in Eighteenth-Century British Law and on Twe

Valentina Tikoff, DePaul University

October 23, 2018

The 2014 film *Belle* was inspired by a late eighteenth-century painting featuring two well dressed young women, one apparently black and one apparently white. Each of the historical figures depicted had spent part of her youth in the home and care of Britain's powerful Chief Justice, Lord Mansfield, who was related to both. As Chief Justice, Mansfield also adjudicated important cases involving the slave trade. These included the Zong case, concerning slavers who murdered scores of slaves and thereafter sought insurance money to cover their financial losses. (The insurers balked; hence the case.) In the feature film *Belle*, screenwriter Misan Sagay and director Amma Asante re-create the lives of the women in the painting as well as the Zong court case. Participants in this seminar will explore the film and related material, considering *Belle*'s depictions of gender, race, class, and slavery in the social and legal cultures of the eighteenth-century British Atlantic world. Through this discussion, the seminar also will broach broader issues regarding the multiple uses, limitations, and considerations of using film to teach and learn historical content and interpretation.

World Studies

Borders in World History

Brian Boeck, DePaul University

October 25, 2018

Simultaneous events in such disparate places as Arizona, Morocco and Hungary have suddenly made the subject of border walls highly relevant once again. This seminar explores the evolution of border infrastructures as tools of statecraft in global history. From the Chinese great walls of history and myth to the Berlin wall and beyond, states have attempted to regulate interaction between subjects and strangers. The seminar will address the following questions: Why do some states invest more heavily in boundary maintenance? Are 'hard' borders an exclusively modern phenomenon? Are borders constructed for political, economic or cultural reasons? How do local communities learn to live with borders?

Literature & Drama (United States)

Magical Realism and History in Beloved

Kara Johnson, Newberry Library

October 26, 2018

According to most critical discussions of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Beloved* (1987), this influential novel sits comfortably under the umbrella of the magical realist genre. The qualities of this genre, defined loosely as the incorporation of otherworldly events in an otherwise realistic setting, are important features of this novel, which tells the story of Sethe, who becomes haunted-and eventually overpowered by-the spirit of her two-year-old daughter, whom she killed. However, Morrison's novel was inspired by a newspaper article Morrison stumbled upon while editing a collection of historical and cultural documents, *The Black Book* (1974). This article, "A Visit to the Slave Mother who Killed Her Child" (1856), came from the newspaper *American Baptist*, and told of Margaret Garner, a slave who fled Kentucky for Ohio, a free state. Amid the extraordinary events of Sethe's spiritual hauntings, lie important historical observations about the ever-present trauma of American enslavement. And, one could argue, the magical realist genre could be utilized to pronounce even further and lay bare the horrifying historical realities of slavery, as well as their haunting echoes in post-Emancipation America. This seminar examines the generic tensions between magical realism and America's well-documented historical narratives of enslavement, and how this tension works together to create Morrison's masterpiece. We will discuss important literary and historical contexts that contributed to Morrison's work, and how broad generic categories can oftentimes obscure the book's bold engagement with literary experimentation and "pushing the boundaries" of conventional novelistic narratives. The seminar will also present suggestions on how to demystify this rather difficult text for students, and with its participants explore lesson planning ideas that incorporate historical documents, film, and other visual media representations of *Beloved* and American slavery.

World Studies

Islamic Africa and African Islam: Teaching the lived forms of a religious tradition

Sean Hanretta, Northwestern University

October 30, 2018

Americans tend to associate Islam with the Middle East, but in fact far more Muslims live outside that area than within it. Nearly 100 million Muslims live in Nigeria alone, more than the population of Egypt and more than the population of all the Arabian states combined. Part of why this doesn't match our imagination of Islam is that we've come to think of Islam in normative terms, a certain package of cultural practices distinct from complex religious beliefs or individual faith. And those Muslim cultures that most people in the US are exposed to are those of the Arabic- and Persian-speaking world. We have come to mistake culture for religion and then extrapolated the cultures of one region across a population of nearly 2 billion. This workshop helps provide resources for thinking about presenting Islam as it is experienced and lived in one somewhat unfamiliar context: sub-Saharan Africa. We'll discuss art, music, family organization, politics, trade, and day-to-day piety, all from a historical perspective. The goal will be to help you confront stereotypes about Islam in ways that are grounded in factual information while giving you some interpretive frameworks to help organize information on this vast topic. I'll recommend some novels, films, and primary sources that you can share with students.

Geography & Environmental Studies

The Chicago Area Waterway System-Transforming Chicago's Physical Environment and Connecting Cultu

Jim Montgomery, DePaul University

November 1, 2018

The theme of this seminar is TRANSFORMATION. The location of cities and their patterns of growth are dependent in part on the characteristics of their physical environment. In this seminar we will broadly explore how Chicago's physical environment – in particular Lake Michigan and the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) has been instrumental in transforming Chicago from a mudhole into a thriving commercial and cultural metropolis. The CAWS is a 130-mile network of natural and constructed rivers, canals, locks and other structures in Chicago and northwest Indiana. Constructed beginning in the 1890s, the CAWS system diverted water from Lake Michigan and created a connection across a low mid-continental divide to the Mississippi watershed. There are five connections between the CAWS and Lake Michigan, with the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal ultimately connecting the system to the Illinois River and the Mississippi River watershed. The CAWS provides important benefits to the Chicago region, including convey-ing treated wastewater, supporting commercial shipping, managing flood water, and moving recreational boats and tour boats. However, CAWS is currently faced with significant challenges in these areas, including the influx of invasive Asian carp and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). We will discuss many important benefits that CAWS provides to Chicagoland. In addition we will discuss a recent proposal to physically separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System to prevent the movement of Asian carp and other AIS. A customized reader containing excerpted chapters from various sources, including Richard Lanyon's recently published book, *Building the Canal to Save Chicago*, will be distributed to seminar participants. In addition, we will spend time in Newberry's map collections viewing vintage maps and photos depicting Chicago's growth and development and subsequent transformation of its physical environment.

Politics Science & Economics

The 2018 Elections: Hyper-Partisanship and Political Turmoil

Wayne Steger, DePaul University

November 2, 2018

The last 25 years have witnessed growing partisan polarization and intensifying party conflict. Some evidence indicates that partisanship has supplanted race as the main social cleavage in America. Anecdotally, we see it as people defriend and block each other on social media. This session will focus first on political polarization and main factors contributing to political polarization: increasing economic inequality and the growing divisions along educational and geographic lines that impact social identity, culture, and political preferences. This provides the context in which the 2018 elections are occurring. The second part of the session will focus on the factors that influence the outcomes of congressional elections: partisanship, gerrymandering, incumbency effects, strategic behavior by candidates, campaign finance, and voter turnout. The final part of the session will look at and explain forecasting models that predict the outcomes of the elections.

Geography & Environmental Studies

Immigration in Contemporary France: Literary and Cultural Perspectives

Julia Elsky, Loyola University Chicago

November 7, 2018

This seminar explores representations of immigration to France in literature and culture, focusing on the topics of responses to French universalism and the choice to write in French as an adopted language. Participants will explore the history of immigration in France from the interwar period until the present day, as well as develop definitions of the many terms linked to migration in the French context: immigrant, émigré, expat, refugee, migrant. We will look at the topic from historical and cultural points of view by focusing on writings by Patrick Weil and Joan Wallach Scott as well as responses to the current refugee crisis. In addition, we will study texts by writers responding to the legacy of French universalism, as well as their paths to take part in the tradition of French literature, including short works by Andreï Makine, Nancy Huston, and Leïla Sebbar. This seminar will offer participants a chance to study responses to the French universalist tradition in the context of histories of immigration in the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries in France, drawing parallels and contrasts between issues and responses to immigration in the interwar period and today.

Geography & Environmental Studies

Understanding U.S. Political Geography

Jon Kilpinen, Valparaiso University

November 12, 2018

American politics has become increasingly charged and seemingly more polarized over the past few national election cycles. Elections seem more high-stakes than ever, and we see heightened scrutiny of campaign strategies, voter turnout levels, and voting districts. This seminar will explore these and related issues with the goal of equipping teachers with the resources and understanding necessary to introduce students to American political geography. Topics will include American political culture regions, U.S. voting patterns at the national level, and the complex issue of redistricting. While most students will be interested in these domestic issues, as time permits we will also examine the United States' situation in global political geography, especially our role in various intergovernmental organizations and international conflicts.

History (World)

Legacies of the Great War: Historical Questions and Controversies

Gene Beiriger, DePaul University

December 6, 2018

The war and its aftermath created legacies that are still with us. While we will not cover specifics of the conflict, we will examine the historical impact of the war on the the rest of the twentieth century, as well as its lingering aftershocks to the present. Some of the topics will include: the idea that military leaders (not politicians) should determine a state's war policies; the view that the Treaty of Versailles was a failure and made the Second World War inevitable; the belief that democracy and nationalism are always constructive forces; the notion that communism had to be opposed at all costs; etc. This seminar will examine the ways in which historians have questioned and revised many long- and widely-held views, as well as discuss the reasons why such views persist. This seminar marks the centenary of the end of the First World War on November 11, 1918, and raises important questions about memory and commemoration.

Literature & Drama (United States)

Whitman's Love Poems: In His Time and Ours

Eric Selinger, DePaul University

December 11, 2018

"Publish my name and hang up my picture as that of the tenderest lover," Whitman asks in "Live Oak With Moss." This would be a seminar on Whitman as a love poet, reading him not only historically, in terms of what his poems can teach us about love in mid-to-late-19th century America, but also aesthetically, in terms of how he enacts ideas of love in his compositional choices, and more philosophically, as an enduring "example to lovers" in "ages yet to come." What kind of love does Whitman model and describe, and how does the poetry of "the tenderest lover" read in the age of Tinder?

History (United States)

Visualizing the 1893 World's Fair

Diane Dillon, Newberry Library

December 12, 2018

This seminar will explore the visual culture of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, in conjunction with the Newberry's fall 2018 thematic exhibition, Pictures from an Exposition: Visualizing the 1893 World's Fair. The seminar will begin with a classroom discussion of the readings and of images of the fair in various artistic media. We will then move into the galleries where we will examine the original objects on display in the exhibition and continue our discussion. Topics to be covered include the planning and construction of the grounds and buildings; the experiences of fair visitors; memories and mementos of the exposition; and the fair's evolving reputation, as expressed by critics at the time and more recent scholars.

Literature & Drama (British)

Gothic Fiction and the Divided Self

Jules Law, Northwestern University

January 22, 2019

In this seminar we will discuss two classic works of gothic fiction, both of which explore the problem of the divided

self: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein, Or, the Myth of the Modern Prometheus* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Whether in the guise of monster, rival, uncanny double, or repressed desire, the fantasy of an "other" self lies at the heart of some of our most archetypal narratives, and some of our deepest ethical, psychological and political dilemmas. These two texts notoriously-and schematically-represent "aspects" of the self that seem diametrically opposed to each other. But by that very fact they also present opportunities for us to consider the ways in which antagonistic binaries are complicated by intermediate characters and by criss-crossing plots. We will use these texts to "deconstruct" the comfortable binaries of nature/nurture, normal/monstrous, inside/outside, and self/other.

Politics Science & Economics

Histories of Capitalism

Rudi Batzell, Lake Forest College

January 29, 2019

Recently "capitalism" has emerged as a major category for analysis and debate. This seminar will explore some of this new research and how it can challenge the way we teach major topics in global and US history. The seminar will explore how the history of capitalism can helpfully frame three major historical junctures. First, a global perspective on the industrial revolution that allows us to ask why Britain and then Europe developed and became wealthy compared to other advanced regions in the "Great Divergence." Second, an Atlantic perspective on slavery and capitalism allows us to explore how two systems of labor (free waged labor, coerced enslaved labor) became so closely interconnected yet distinct parts of the nineteenth century economy. Finally, turning to the history of the United States, we will examine the relationship of governmental power and capitalism. According to many theorists, capitalism is defined by government restraint and limits. Yet when we look at the actual history of capitalism, a pattern of extensive and expanding state capacity appears to be one of the defining features of capitalist economies.

History (United States)

Riots and Protest: Chicago's Legacy of Conflict

Rachel Boyle, Newberry Library

February 1, 2019

Explore Chicago's past through one of its defining characteristics: conflict. By analyzing historical documents, consulting secondary literature, and engaging in lively discussion, seminar participants will investigate the historical riots and protests such as the Lager Beer Riots, Hull House Hunger Strikes, and the Haymarket Affair that continue to shape popular memory of Chicago's past. The seminar will also demonstrate broad trajectories of settler colonialism, industrialization, and segregation while rooting conversation in tangible histories of people and place.

History (World)

Myths and Realities of the Medieval Spice Trade

Sarah Kernan, Independent Scholar

February 4, 2019

Spices were an important commodity in medieval Europe with an allure and mythology dating back to Antiquity. Europeans used spices in culinary, medicinal, and religious applications, driving an enormous demand for these products. Prices rose to astronomical levels as all types of spices, from pepper to sugar to saffron, became revered luxury items and status symbols across Europe. European merchants sought out spices from Asia, travelling dangerous routes through the Middle East and Africa. Because spices were from distant lands and European consumers had no direct access to their sources, stories about spice origins flourished. Writers and artists recorded myths about pepper trees guarded by serpents and cinnamon requiring harvest from nests of fantastical birds built on perilous cliffs. These legends only added to their mystique and justified their expense. In this seminar, we will examine the rich history and lore of the spice trade through medieval and renaissance literature, art, economic records, maps, recipes, and more, many from the Newberry collections. While learning ways to study and teach these documents, we will navigate the complex historical context of the spice trade, exploring issues of business, religion, social and cultural status, and much more. We will also discuss the dramatic global consequences of the spice trade: the exploration of new routes to China and India resulting in the European discovery of the Americas and colonization of profitable regions around the world.

Literature & Drama (World)

Other Hearts of Darkness

Evan Mwangi, Northwestern University

February 7, 2019

This three-hour seminar discusses the global re-writings of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, relating the novel to newer materials from Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Why is Conrad's novella echoed in so many texts from the global south, including in works by authors that trenchantly dismiss Conrad's politics? In what ways are the novels that echo Conrad's text similar to, or different from, *Heart of Darkness*? How do newer thematic concerns feature in postcolonial works that Conrad's novella? As we answer these questions, we will discuss the ways Conrad's novella is repurposed to depict various themes and to use Conrad as an ally against imperialism and other forms of oppression, including the discrimination of gender and racial minorities in post-colonial societies. While considering the formal properties of the texts, we will put these novels in broader historical and social contexts. The seminar will explore especially those works that can be used in high-school settings, paying attention to ways we can make students appreciate the diverse perspectives on Conrad's work. Fictional works examined include Abdulrazak Gurnah's *Paradise*, Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, David Dabydeen's *The Intended*, Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat*, and Ama Ata Aidoo's *Our Sister Killjoy*. We will also discuss essays on Conrad by Chinua Achebe and Wilson Harris, putting them against the background of these writers' fictions that echo of Conrad. By the end of the seminar the participants should be able to: explore non-western texts to use in classes that use *Heart of Darkness* to explain various themes; explain the echoes of *Heart of Darkness* in different post-colonial novels; examine the place of race, gender, and sexuality in the postcolonial re-writings of *Heart of Darkness*; relate echoes of *Heart of Darkness* in various texts to different forms of cultural exchanges depicted in individual works of art.

History (United States)

Early America & Narratives of Violence

Bryan Rindfleisch, Marquette University

February 13, 2019

Early America was a violent place. Competing cultures, clashing agendas, and a series of unsettling conditions all encouraged conflict. This is the prevailing historical narrative today that defines Early America, circa 1492-1800. However, violence was only one response to the complex and intimate interactions between Native Americans, African Americans, and Europeans in the New World. Collaboration, compromise, and negotiation similarly - if not more importantly - defined these peoples and their encounters, exchanges, and connections over the course of three centuries. This seminar, then, will explore this alternative history of Early America sans violence, while at the same time understanding how and why violence became a part of this history, but not the defining characteristic. Finally, this seminar will grapple with the questions of why violence is central to the narratives and histories that we create about ourselves and teach others, and how we might frame the history of Early America in different ways.

American Studies

Building Chicago Identity in Third Places

Bill Savage, Northwestern University

February 15, 2019

Cities can be understood as mosaics of different sorts of places where we construct identity, starting with the home and workplace, where we are defined by family relationships and by what we do for a living. But sociologist Ray Oldenburg has theorized the "third place," where city dwellers voluntarily form communities based on shared interests and concerns beyond the ties of blood or money. Third places are usually semi-public spaces, characterized by a low cost of entry, and populated by an established group of people, but still open to newcomers. In this seminar, we will explore this sort of urban space, focusing on bars, cafes, and barber shops as quintessential third places depicted in Chicago literature and film from the 19th century to the 21st.

History (United States)

"Red for Ed" and Other Episodes in The History of Teacher Challenges to the Status Quo

Robert Johnston, University of Illinois at Chicago

February 19, 2019

Few expected the recent Red Uprising of teachers in conservative states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Arizona. In this seminar, we will look at that uprising in historical perspective. We will also look at the political

history of teachers' unions more generally over the last century.

History (World)

Toleration, Enlightenment, and the Invention of Human Rights

Mike Lynn, Purdue University North Central

February 22, 2019

This seminar will discuss how eighteenth-century thinkers developed and understood the idea of individual human rights. They espoused the idea, embodied in the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789), that "all men are born free and remain equal in rights." But putting this notion into practice during the age of Enlightenment proved somewhat difficult. The rights of men and women, Europeans from non-Europeans, those of differing races and religions, all posed problems for people trying to articulate their desire to tolerate differences and embrace diversity. The focus will be on authors such as Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Wollstonecraft, and Beccaria.

History (United States)

Freedom Now: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Chicago

Kevin Boyle, Northwestern University

February 25, 2019

Most Americans think of the civil rights movement as a southern phenomenon, aimed at toppling the legal system of segregation that stripped African Americans of the rights the Constitution guaranteed them. But the movement also swept through the north, where it confronted a set of racial practices every bit as devastating as the South's. This seminar will examine the history of that movement in Chicago over much of the twentieth century. We will explore the long, bitter struggle over neighborhood segregation, from the South Side to Cicero; trace the movement's campaigns to integrate schools and workplaces; and examine its relationship with the city's tangled politics as it tried to transform what was - and is - one of the nation's most segregated cities.

American Studies

The New Border

John Alba Cutler, Northwestern University

February 27, 2019

Since the early 1990s, the United States government has increasingly militarized its border with Mexico, with far-reaching effects. The increased enforcement infrastructure in southern California and Texas, for instance, has funneled migrants into southern Arizona's dangerous deserts, where thousands have died of heat exposure. Meanwhile, the transformation of the former Immigration and Naturalization Services into Immigration and Custom Services (ICE) under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security has entailed the exponential growth of security operations throughout the nation, in effect making the border ubiquitous. These changes, among many others, constitute the "new border," a term we will use in this seminar to explore literature and culture post-dating Gloria Anzaldúa's foundational text *Borderlands / La Frontera* (1987). We will ask, how has border militarization changed Chicana (Mexican American) literary expression? What tropes, genres, and ideas has literature of the new border produced? How might the paradigm of the new border affect our understanding of the broad sweep of border history? Texts will include poetry by Juan Felipe Herrera, Alberto Ríos, and Valerie Martínez, and prose by Oscar Martínez, Luis Alberto Urrea, and Sandra Cisneros.

History (European)

The Crusading Experience, 1098-1492

Chris Fletcher, Newberry Library

February 28, 2019

Through a discussion of readings, and an analysis of translated primary documents, we will consider the ways in which the Crusades shaped and were shaped by the religious and cultural life in Europe and the Middle East from the late 11th to the late 15th century. Participants will examine religious motivations behind the arduous task of crusading and how they changed over time, reflecting the transition from the medieval to the early modern era. The seminar will then turn to the cultural interaction and exchange generated by the Crusades, their impact on Christian and Muslim societies on both sides of the conflict, and their enduring legacy today. In so doing, this seminar will use the Crusades as a tool for exploring pertinent contemporary issues such as religion and violence and cross-cultural interactions.

Literature & Drama (United States)

Melville and American Exceptionalism

Will Hansen, Newberry Library

March 7, 2019

Herman Melville acted as both champion and critic of the rapidly changing, expanding United States of the nineteenth century. His experiences in the South Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe, combined with his notable ancestry as grandson to two major figures of the American Revolution, helped to form Melville's ambivalent voice regarding his country's regard for itself as unique among the nations of the world in its freedoms, principles, and "manifest destiny." What can his views on imperialism, slavery, Indigenous peoples, religion, and the development of a national literature teach us (and help us teach) about the American experiment? This seminar will explore this question with excerpts from works such as *Typee*, *Mardi*, *Moby-Dick*, *The Confidence-Man*, "Bartleby, the Scrivener," and "Benito Cereno," as well as Melville's underappreciated poetry on the Civil War and other topics. The seminar will include a guided tour of the exhibition, "Melville: Finding America at Sea."

World Language (Spanish)

Latinxs in the United States

Gizella Meneses, Lake Forest College

March 8, 2019

This seminar will be in Spanish. It will offer an overview of the history of Latinx literature in the United States, including the Nuevo Latinx Boom, and will introduce authors and major cultural, social, and political movements. The Nuevo Latinx Boom is a surge of literary production written in Spanish and published in the United States, particularly in the past two decades. We will explore as well how Latinx writers contextualize, approach, critique, influence, and are influenced by, their cultural, social, and political frameworks. Emphasis will be placed on the construction of identity in terms of race, sexuality, gender, language, and class. The course's primary objective is to provide an overall social and literary understanding and to recognize the cultural contributions of Latinxs in the United States.

American Studies

14th Amendment: Barriers, Battles, and Balance

Debra Levis, Lake Forest College

April 10, 2019

This course will explore what it means to be diverse in America. While Americans are a people of wide-ranging races, religions, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientation and levels of wealth, this diversity presents challenges. Our nation pledges itself to fairness and equality and yet, at times people feel mistreated by their government, not because of what they have done, but because of who they are. When disputes arise over such characteristics, the court system provides a venue for the resolution of the conflict. We will explore how our laws foster civil rights and equality and what it means under the law to be fair and just and treated equally-examining strengths and limitations.

Literature & Drama (World)

Asian American Literature: World, Nation, City

Andrew Leong, Northwestern University

April 29, 2019

This seminar provides a framework for teaching and reading Asian American literature at three levels of scale: world, nation, and city. At the world scale, we will discuss the political origins of the phrase "Asian American" in the late 1960s and its associations with radical forms of political activism such as the Third World Liberation Front. We will also look back to the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries to see how a larger, world historical perspective of Asian American literature from the Manila galleon trade to the Spanish American War can illustrate the limitations of historical and literary narratives that focus too heavily on the North Atlantic. At the national scale, we will examine how Asian American writers confronted the anti-Asiatic creation of national borders through immigration exclusions and origin quotas from the 1880s to 1920s. We will trace how the legacies of these exclusions informed later works written during and after ghettoization, internment, and refugee resettlement. Finally, at the city scale, we will focus on resources for finding and teaching Asian American literary texts written in, or about, Chicago.