New USM Core Course – ENG 145 Literature and History!!!

These new Core Cultural Interpretation courses are taught by several of USM’s best faculty who are experts in each of the topics and who are interested in exploring them with non-majors. All sections also fulfill the “H” literature requirement in the old core.

Sign up for one of these Core Cultural Interpretation courses today!

ENG 145 (24970)
Utopia, Dystopia and Science Fiction
TR, 8:45-10:00,
Ben Bertram, Portland

The imagination of alternative societies or worlds, either in the present (traditional utopia) or the future (science fiction) has been and continues to be, an essential part of the way we understand our individual and collective existence and hope for, or refuse to believe in, alternatives to that existence. This course will study the genre of utopia along with two other genres—dystopia and science fiction—that are closely tied to it.

ENG 145 (29644)
I, Me, Mine
MW, 9:30-10:45,
Lynn Eckersley-Ray, Gorham

This course seeks to make sense of how we define ourselves as unique and special “Individuals” within the context of our larger, external world. To help us in our quest to understand the constructions of “I, me, mine,” we’ll examine how others have tackled these concepts in historical, philosophical, theoretical, artistic, cinematic, and literary “texts”—from Virgil and Shakespeare to Krakauer and modern film . . . and everything in between! Our studies will take us from pastoral verse and painting to living (and dying) on a bus in the Alaskan frontier to asking the Dalai Lama for insight as we attempt to decipher exactly who we are.

ENG 145 (24971)
Love and War in Cultural Contexts
TR, 1:15-2:30
Nancy Gish, Portland

Art, according to Stephen Greenblatt, “is an important agent... in the transmission of culture.” For both women and men, the values and behaviors demonstrated or revealed in literature of war and of love—both called “romance”—are central to ideas of individual and social roles. By examining and comparing texts primarily from Medieval and Modern works, this class will consider how literature and other arts have revealed world views as they shifted from god-centered to human-centered to decentered.