

"Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day--at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs."

—Walt Whitman

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies and an in-depth examination of a few central moments in 19th- and 20th-century American cultures. Focusing on the trope of "movement" (from geographic, social, political, cultural, musical, and so forth), students will learn to analyze key texts in American cultural studies. Literary works to film, music and art, as well as political essays: this breadth of texts—e.g., Kerouac's *On the Road*, Kushner's *Angels in America*, Coppola's *The Godfather*, Disney, Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, essays, photography, and other works—will allow students to learn about different approaches and methodologies to the discipline.

Importantly, through the use of primary sources, pictures, films, and class projects, emphasis will be placed on students' analytical skills, reading, writing, and communication of interdisciplinary scholarship.