Using an array of letters, diaries, film, photographs, music, and other primary sources, this course will examine the lives of ordinary Americans during the Great Depression of the 1930’s, as well as the efforts of the Federal and State governments to improve them. Works by John Steinbeck, James Agee, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Frank Capra, Clifford Odets, Busby Berkeley, Richard Wright, and Zora Neale Hurston will be included, as well as the letters and diaries of the nameless. Similarities between the 1930’s and the current Great Recession will be discussed.