This class introduces the interdisciplinary study of “America”—as a nation, a people, and a cultural-political ideal. Working with a wide variety of texts (e.g., films, photographs, political advertisements, autobiography and novel, popular music), students will explore the shifting terrain of American culture. Along the way, they will examine how popular artists, ideologues, and ordinary citizens have attempted to challenge (or reassert) notions of American identity and power in times of crisis and cultural change.

**Required:** Omar El Akkad, *American War: A Novel*; Michael C. C. Adams, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II*