

“These two lanes will take us anywhere.” –Bruce Springsteen, “Thunder Road”

AMS 412 - On the Road

11:00-11:50 MWF - W credit

J. Melton

Using the “road” as a metaphor for life is as old as humanity, but its greatest expression is found in the United States, a restless nation of movement. We take to the open road for varying reasons but we can all find ourselves everywhere.



The course will explore many facets of the road and car cultures in the United States after 1945, drawing from an array of cultural sources. It will feature film, literature, and music. This is your chance to get out of town—in your imagination.

Novels: *On the Road* and *In Country*; Films: *Easy Rider*, *Thelma & Louise*, *Smoke Signals*, and more; Critical Studies: essays on car culture and mobility; Music: selected road tunes; Pop Culture: from car ads to billboards, from *Route 66* to *The Walking Dead*.