

Inquiry into Love
Marcel Brouwers

This course will attempt to generate ‘universal’ understandings of the term, ‘love,’ through the examination of its historical representations in literature and art. Furthermore, while it is possible, for example, to love ice cream or chocolate, this kind of love is very different from the love felt for fellow humans. And both loves are different from a love felt for one’s favorite book. The word itself, ‘love,’ gets bandied about so frequently that it may have lost its meaning. Perhaps it never had one.

In addition to historical underpinnings of love, we will consider contemporary conceptions of the term, through the eyes of non-American writers. Included in these considerations will be an examination of popular representations of love in music, film, and popular culture (i.e. Valentine’s Day). Students will employ varied means of investigating this universal concept, gaining a deeper appreciation of the complexities and intricacies of love.