

Inquiry into Identity and Representation in a Visual Culture

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This course focuses on the way we construct our identities--as individuals, as members of subcultures, as members of American society--in an increasingly image-driven world. We'll explore a number of questions about how visual texts shape our understanding, including: What do our family photos and home movies really say about us? How can movies change our perception of historical events? How do news images and TV shows inform our perception of contemporary issues? Besides products, what ideas do commercials try to sell us? Major assignments will include a personal narrative, an investigation into representations of a historical event, an inquiry into a contemporary controversy, and a group project that documents a local community, group, or place.