

## Inquiry into Cultural Representation

The overall concern of this course is to embark on a close reading of the specific contexts in which cultural representation takes place. We will look closely at the interaction between the alleged meaning or message of a cultural entity, be that a cultural event, a lived cultural identity, or a cultural object. In so doing, we will encounter aspects of power and privilege beginning with the classification of art as pertaining to a certain group to its positioning within a consecrated space. The goal of this course is to make students aware of the rhetorical situations the different forms of cultural representation may illustrate. For this purpose, students will conduct field research on a contemporary cultural institution on Knoxville, on a historic cultural event that is generic to the East Tennessee area, and on the representation of cultural difference across academic fields of research.