

Summer 2012
SIGN130: Transitions
Section Descriptions

Summer Session I
Section 02, Online
Fear in Modern America
Prosterman

We live in a fear-based society—with terror manifest in debates over immigration, gender roles, foreign policy, religion, and the environment. But from where do our fears originate? Utilizing a diverse collection of evidence, including literature, film, advertisements, and government propaganda, we will examine the evolution of fear in modern American society and culture. We will pay particular attention to changing conceptions of gender roles since World War II and consider the ramifications of these developments in our lives today.

Summer Session I
Section YA, Hybrid
The Body of the Self
Windsor

This course will explore the social meanings of the body, or what it means to have an embodied self. In this class, students will examine how our bodies give our selves meanings (such as through race and age), as well as how we use our bodies to convey meanings about our selves (such as through movement and dress).

Summer Session II
Section OL, Online
Our Lives, Our Education
Richardson

Through this 5 week writing-intensive course, students will participate in collaborative and independent creative projects. As a class, we will read, share and discuss local and global issues relating to women and education. In the first half, we will critically explore women and class in society through Ehrenreich's book *Nickel and Dimed*. Next, we will investigate the impact of education from a global perspective through Kristoff and WuDunn's, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. Along with these books, we'll draw from each other's life histories to better understand ways in which our lives and the experiences of others can positively and critically impact our own education.

Summer Session II
Section Y, Hybrid
The Other Mirror: Society in Science Fiction
Young

Through essays, short stories, academic articles, along with television episodes and film, we will analyze the way in which science fiction portrays society by projecting forward (or backward) in time. Social, political, historical, religious economic, and scientific lenses will help us see what the authors and writers were trying to say about men, women, power, race, class, and religion. We will write and reflect on what we read and watch in order to bring our own lenses into better focus on society and what it means to be a citizen of the Earth. (Hybrid: Online Component Included)