

**English/Film Studies/Comparative Literature 316:**

**World Cinema—Global Road Movies**

**Professor Gilberto M. Blasini**

**Monday & Wednesday, 1:30 – 4:00 PM**

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**Course Description:** The course examines how the road movie genre has found articulation in different national and global contexts. Through an examination of theories about film genres in general and road movies in particular, the course pays attention to the transformations and reconfigurations that have been necessary for the road movie to undergo in order to address and to engage the particular cultural discourses of different national contexts and in some cases of globalization itself. These discourses will allow us to ponder upon how particular conceptions of character, narrative structures, and ideological constructions might simultaneously find themselves at odds with some national idiosyncrasies while aligning themselves with certain global discourses. As a result, the films screened in class will allow us to inquire about issues of contemporary subjectivities, particularly in relation to citizenship, nationality, and globality. Given that road movies always involve some form of motorized transportation, questions about technology (e.g., access to and/or availability of technology), and its roles in different national and global contexts—especially in countries with weak and/or indebted economies—will allow for an exploration of how the genre addresses (if at all) the specific social, economic, political discourses of the countries in which the story unfolds. The course will include films from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, England, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, and the US.

**Reading Materials:** All the readings for the course will be available in electronic copy through the course's Canvas site.

E/FS/CL 316 satisfies the L&S International Requirement