A course on how Native American themes in motion pictures have impacted popular understandings of America and its past.

Since the founding of the nation, audiences have been drawn to stories about White-Indian encounters in defining moments of American history. Whether appearing as fierce and cunning warlike savages, beautiful and exotic noble princesses, or nature-worshipping mystics, depictions of Natives by non-Native artists have shifted and evolved to shape and/or satisfy popular notions of America and its past. While these understandings have been developed in plays, paintings, sculptures, literature, sports mascots, and other popular art forms, this course will examine this popular history through the prism of major motion pictures.