WHERE DO MY INTERESTS TAKE ME?

LEAP 1100-007/008 is designed to introduce students to a variety of disciplines within the Humanities. Drawing upon imaginative literature, autobiography, ethnography, cultural theory, and film, the course will center thematically on border crossings. Sometimes this will entail a literal, physical movement across political boundaries, reflecting the restless modern impulse to establish a sense of place in the world. Yet we will also come to understand borders in a more figurative sense, as represented by the limits and prohibitions against which people strive. Finally, bridging these concepts, we will reflect upon how human identity is constructed and defined in terms of physicality, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, etc. – and the myriad “crossings” that complicate identity formation, both within individuals and within communities. Along the way, we will compass a diverse array of human experience (and at least one monster’s) while becoming fluent with terms like alienation, displacement, and hybridity. The final project for the course will challenge students to grapple with these concepts on a more personal and familial level.