This semester we will explore the social, cultural, economic, historical, and political dynamics that shapes the world’s view of the United States. We will discover what the United States mean around the world in various regions, and how different peoples use their understanding and perspective of the United States for their own cultural and political purposes. We will seek to understand the impact that the United States’ policies have had and continue to have on the rest of the world.

- Why do some people see the United States as a global backwater full of hicks with no culture, while others see them as the source of cultural innovation and progress?
- Why do some nations treat the United States as a global empire, and others see them as a peace keeper?
- How can some people experience the United States as the source of freedom and democracy, while other people experience the United States as a cynical, greedy power broker?
- How do people respond to the presence of the United States in their lives, to both the United States’ largesse and its violence?