The course is a seminar built around weekly readings on the history of the freak show largely in the 19th and 20th centuries. Geographically, it will cover the US, Britain, and Europe as well as addressing the unequal transnational circuits that moved people as part of a wider colonial project. As part of the exploration of freakery, we'll focus on the history of consumer culture, the history of spectacle and display, and the intersections with social and cultural concerns regarding the modern body. A critical aspect of the study of the freak show is the history of disability, so we'll engage some of the historical and theoretical literature on disability as well as engaging with intersectional analyses attentive to gender, race, class, and age.

**Assignments:**
The course will consist largely of a major research paper (focusing on the secondary literature) and weekly participation.