The car is a central object in American social life. This seminar will explore a variety of topics looking at the past and future of the car with respect to its utilitarian function as a means of transportation; as a cultural icon & art form; as an economic product and status symbol, and its health and environmental impact, among others. Students will have the opportunity to pursue a topic of their choice with readings and research throughout the course, resulting in a final term paper.

Books


Additional articles on Canvas.

Grades:

Participation/Reading Response 20
2 article presentations/ critiques 30
Research paper 50

Topics / Readings:

PART I – THE HISTORY

Week 1 – Starting Up

Th 4/5 Heitmann Ch 1
Week 2 – Political Economy: Power & Money
Tue 4/10  Heitmann Ch  2-3
Thur 4/12  Heitmann Ch 4
Submit potential paper topics

Week 3 – Quality of Life: Pro & Con
Tue 4/17  Heitmann Ch 5- 6
Thur 4/19  Heitmann Ch 7
Individual Meetings to refine topic

Week 4 – Cultural Icon & Identity
Tue 4/24  Heitmann Ch  8-9
Thur 4/26  Heitmsnn Ch 10. Epilogue

PART II THE FUTURE
Week 5 - Technologies
Tue 5/1  L&K  Ch 1,2
Thur 5/3  L&K Ch 3,4

Week 6 – The Synthesis
Tue 5/8  L&K Ch 5,6
Thur 5/10 L&K Ch 7,8
**Week 7 – Social Change**

Tue 5/15  L&K Ch 9,10

Thur 5/17  L&K Ch 11,12  Afterward

**Week 8 - Independent Research for Final Paper**

Tue 5/22

Thur 5/24

**Week 9 – Final Paper Outlines & Discussion**

Tue 5/29

Thur 5/31

**Week 10 – LAST CLASS & READING WEEK**

Tue 6/5

**Week 11 – EXAM WEEK FINAL PAPER DUE  MONDAY 6/11**

Mon 6/11