

CORE 301: MODES OF INQUIRY

Professor Amy Cannon, Thematic Option Honors Program

Lecture F 9:00 – 11:50 am 63571D

Exploring Genre, Exploring Places: Creativity in LA

Would you like to explore Los Angeles while also exploring your creative voice? In this experiential class, you'll get to know the city via your own creative expression! Home of Hollywood, world class art museums, literary gems, and hidden cultural treasures, Los Angeles is a metropolis bursting with culture and creativity to be discovered.

This hands on, experiential class will set out to uncover literary and artistic genres that are native to LA, engage with ways our city has been depicted in literature and the arts, and explore the literary and artistic spaces and places the vivid and varied LA basin has to offer.

We will discover genres as diverse as street art, hardboiled detective fiction, and art zines, among others. In a region known for its film, art, poetry, and architecture, we'll engage with creative works old and new, and learn to better appreciate them by undertaking diverse creative expressions ourselves—write food reviews after exploring LA's food scene, try your hand at first person narrative in the style of Didion or poetry in the style of Bukowski, respond artistically and critically to class visits to locations within striking distance of USC yet to be explored. Excursions may include film viewings, museum visits, walking tours, and more, so expect to get out and about in the metropolis USC calls home.

Besides getting to know the way Los Angeles creates, a key piece of this class will be practicing the artistic and literary forms we uncover in our time together: throughout the semester, we'll hear from creators and visit places in LA in that showcase works at the forefront of art, literature, and media, and work together to explore and understand these various creative expressions, before taking time to create responsive works in that genre together in a supportive and generative class community. This class will culminate in a collaborative publication to commemorate and showcase the creative genres we've explored.

Whether you grew up in LA, whether you're intrigued by street art or curious about a career in publishing, or if you're just someone who wants to explore Los Angeles with new eyes—this class is for you!

Professor Cannon's class will sometimes use class periods to travel off campus to locations around Los Angeles. There may also be some weeks when the class meets at an alternate time in order to attend a scheduled show or event.

Texts *(subject to change)*

TBD