

IS 231 : The Zombie Apocalypse & Other Doomsday Beliefs in Popular Culture

An interdisciplinary study of the zombie apocalypse and other doomsday beliefs in popular culture which will bring together various methodologies and conceptual tools to create a complex analysis. Topics covered will include: the concept of apocalyptic beliefs in popular culture; how apocalyptic beliefs are created and circulated in popular culture; how elements of apocalyptic beliefs in popular culture connect to historical and contemporary political, social, psychological, and intellectual issues; how different groups and individuals in history and contemporary society relate to apocalyptic beliefs.

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 3

Course Outcomes

- Identify significant themes in representations of doomsday beliefs in popular culture (e.g., social contract, communitarianism, tribalism, realism, liberalism, neo-conservatism, fascism, barbarism, morality).
- Analyze doomsday beliefs in popular culture using historical, religious, political, philosophical, psychological, social, &/or intellectual frameworks.
- Evaluate how doomsday beliefs in popular culture serve as metaphor to current issues and events, and provides social commentary on the historical context it was produced in.