

# LAS Blockbuster Courses

Spring 2013

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## **HIST 314: Material Culture—The Design, Culture & Engineering of the Automobile**

The automobile has enabled a powerful global network that supports freer circulation of goods, maintains family contact, enhances leisure activities, and is a vital component of global economies. But it's also seen as a device that has routinized labor, stunted technological creativity, increased class difference, and degraded the environment. Co-taught by Professors Rayvon Fouché (History) and David Weightman (Art & Design), students will learn how the automobile impacts social and cultural issues, and contemplate a post-automobile future.

### **COURSE FULFILLS**

LAS students will receive General Education credit in two categories: Humanities & the Arts (Historical & Philosophical Perspectives) and Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Culture(s).

## **PS 300/ENGL 380: Environmental Change and the Midwest—Mapping the Past, Modeling the Future**

Environmental management in the era of ecosystem depletion, overpopulation, and climate change will be an increasingly urgent concern in our lives. This course provides a systems-based study of the environmental history of the Midwestern U.S. with a view to its future management, preservation, and sustainable development, focusing on the fate of the Indiana Dunes region in the coming decades. Students will engage with a wide range of information: historical literature, demographic data sets, landscape art, scientific papers, environmental policy

documents, and computer models projecting the future impacts of climate change. Co-taught by Professors Robert Pahre (Political Science) and Gillen Wood (English), students will gain practical experience in environmental assessment and management. Group research projects in a capstone field study will focus on modeling environmental policy options for the area.

### **COURSE FULFILLS**

LAS students will receive General Education credit in two categories: Humanities & the Arts (Literature & the Arts) and Social & Behavioral Sciences (Social Science).

### **About LAS Blockbuster Courses**

21<sup>st</sup>-century problems are increasingly multidimensional and will require expertise from multiple disciplines to solve. LAS blockbuster courses are exciting, co-taught, multidisciplinary courses for students who want to learn how to apply knowledge in humanities, social science, and science to address real-world problems. Students will work with other highly-motivated students and outstanding professors from outside their majors to gain the kinds of skills that employers are looking for: the ability to deal with a deluge of information and distinguish fact, fiction, and opinion; articulate a position; critically assess counterarguments; and successfully engage in logical, reasoned, rigorous debate.