



**Course:** UNIV 100 – Section 014    **Theme:** Popular Culture

**Course Topic:** *Springsteen and American Dream*

**Description:** Students will investigate the American Dream - defined as the steady (though complicated) idea that every citizen has the equal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - by exploring critically the career of American singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen, whose work is synonymous with the spirit, the struggle, the failures, and the hopes of the American experience. Springsteen, whose music and lyrics often walk the tightrope between optimism and despair, and several of his albums will provide a common guidepost for students as they explore various literal and abstract elements of the elusive dream: youth (Born to Run), work (Darkness on the Edge of Town), community (The River), evil (Nebraska), patriotism (Born in the USA), marriage (Tunnel of Love), immigration (The Ghost of Tom Joad), grief (The Rising), war (Magic), and religion (Wrecking Ball).