**Spring 2018 Course Descriptions**

**Instructor:** Larry J. Reynolds  
**Course:** English 396:500  
**Title:** The Visions of Henry David Thoreau

**Description:** This new course will examine the fascinating life and writings of one of America’s most influential writers, Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862). Thoreau possessed a heightened and radical religious sensibility, and his life-long goal was to experience communion with the divine, whether from the door-step of his hut at Walden Pond, camping with his brother on the Concord River, climbing Mount Katahdin in Maine, or walking along the seashore at Cape Cod. Sometimes he achieved the most marvelous moments of spiritual ecstasy, but at other times he failed. Through a close reading of Thoreau’s writings, we will seek to understanding and appreciate Thoreau’s spiritual quest, as well as his ability to express himself in vibrant and compelling prose.

**Proposed Readings:**