Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Dr. Emily Johansen
Course: ENGL 206
Title: 21st Century Literature and Culture

Description: There are a host of things that millennials are accused of killing: golf, home ownership, paper napkins. Yet one thing that millennials have actually been responsible for keeping alive is the publishing industry. Millennials, on average, read more and are more active users of public libraries than any other group of Americans. The 21st century is when the earliest millennials begin to produce and publish as adults. How, then, do millennial authors and other cultural producers represent their generation and its concerns? In particular, this course will consider the twinned ideas of “flexibility” and “precarity” that have become inescapable themes in millennial life and cultural production. Reading across a variety of genres, we’ll examine the rise of millennial culture in the post-2000 moment.

Proposed Readings: Texts under consideration may include: Lady Bird, Normal People, Severance, Insecure, Fleabag, Broad City, Friday Black, The New Me, Sabrina, Imagine Wanting Only This, We are Never Meeting in Real Life, Pretend I’m Dead, Little Fish, Last Night in Nuuk.