This course examines the novels, films, and art that responded to the collapse of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001 (known as 9/11) or appeared in its wake. What was the cultural fall-out of Ground Zero? What assumptions were challenged by what appeared to be a post-apocalyptic catastrophe? How can literature represent unimaginable disaster?

Skills to be learned in this course include empathic reading, literary analysis, and understanding of the trauma novel. Concepts to be studied include dystopian fiction, traumatic realism, and the graphic novel.

Active participation in all classes
Preparatory questions for discussion in class 20%
Presentation in class 40% (5-6 pages, to be submitted in writing by July 31)
Final paper (5-6 pages) 40% (to be submitted by July 31)

Total 100%

Dan DeLillo, *Falling Man*
Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*
Ian McEwan, *Saturday* (excerpts)
Frédéric Beigbeder, *Windows on the World* (excerpts)
Martin Amis, “The Second Plane” (short story)