Getting on the road is as American as "lighting out for the territory." The mythical power of the road to transport, transform, and liberate its travelers is directly related to our deeply-held beliefs regarding the American frontier, that expanse of promising wilderness that Frederick Jackson Turner argued defined our national character. This seminar will begin by examining westerns and move toward looking at their descendants, road films, in order to explore the filmic representations of the road and our appreciation and anxiety concerning the ideals it represents. Come prepared to view, read, research and write.