The Literary, Visual, and Material Culture Initiative presents a cross-disciplinary, team-taught graduate seminar:

**ENVISIONING FRONTIERS AND BORDERLANDS:**

**METHODS AND SOURCES IN THE VISUAL STUDY OF THE AMERICAN WEST**

MDA 599 (class number: 42293D), Fall 2006

**Tuesdays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm**

Munger Research Center, Huntington Research Library

LVMC promotes interdisciplinary exchange and curricular innovation among USC faculty and graduate students engaged in the study of literary, visual, and material culture. Housed in the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences but reaching across the schools and resources of the University, LVMC sponsors team-taught graduate seminars, a faculty works-in-progress series, panel discussions, reading groups, and visiting lectures. Rather than focusing on traditional forms of art or literature, LVMC considers the overlaps among texts, images, and objects and the alternative modes of interpretation they demand.

William Deverell, History

and

Roberto Lint-Sagarena, Religion and PASE
deverell@usc.edu, lint@usc.edu

The idea of the American West is both a lived and invented tradition, indebted to visual imagery for its shape as both fable and reality. It is no coincidence that American conceptions of the frontier emerged at the same time as modern cultural and visual mediums such as mass publication and photography. This graduate level research and readings course will chart how the idea of the West was conceived and then represented to millions who had never been there; how visual symbols have been central to the region’s history; and how intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, religion inform conceptions of the West over time. This course will provide USC graduate students with the methodological tools as well as physical access to primary source materials necessary to engage in rich, textured and deep visual and historical analysis of the region’s history. Our collaboration is drawn especially from the institutional and personnel resources of the new Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West; the Institute is central to the conception of the course and its intellectual framework(s).

For more information email lvmc@usc.edu. D-clearance: chavarri@usc.edu or x02961.