The course will examine memoirs, fictional works, songs, artwork, movies, sculptures, and other texts which deal with the incarceration and death of millions of innocent victims in the Stalinist prisons and camps. It will also provide the historical background to the camps, and the history of prisons and camps in the post-Stalinist period.

Themes to be explored include the motivations of former prisoners for recording their experiences, the changing depictions of the GULAG in literature, the moral and philosophical issues raised by GULAG texts, and the reception and use of GULAG literature by both the Soviet / Russian and U. S. governments and societies.

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