



## DEFINE AMERICAN

How Mainstream Entertainment Media Shapes  
Public Perceptions of Immigrants and Immigration  
Romance Languages 399 • Fall 2017

**Instructor: Mariko Plescia**

**Guest: Jose Antonio Vargas**

In this course, we will work closely with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, filmmaker, and activist Jose Antonio Vargas (*Documented*, 2013; *White People*, 2015) who will be on campus to occupy the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics. In collaboration with non-profit media and culture organization, Define American, we will explore the relationship between media and public perception, address diverse histories of immigration in the U.S., and review academic research about portrayals of immigrants and immigration in the mainstream U.S. entertainment media. The course will walk students through the process of setting up a media studies research paper comparing representations of immigrants and immigration in two television program or films and analyzing the effects of these portrayals on public opinion. Our work will culminate in a conference where students showcase their research. **Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 - 11:20 a.m. CRN 16941.**

*Questions?* Contact Mariko Plescia at [mplescia@uoregon.edu](mailto:mplescia@uoregon.edu)