The purpose of this course is to explore the meaning of evil. By investigating the ethical and moral dimensions of evil, as well as its social uses, its figuration in cross-cultural religious texts, folklore, ritual, theology, and political imaginaries, this course looks to develop a critical framework for understanding the diverse manifestations and varied cultural renderings of evil in the modern world. Students will explore a range of related themes from the Devil and the demonic, to Satanism and the occult, to the evil eye, and connect these ideas to larger moral and philosophical issues regarding conceptions of the good, universalism vs. relativism, knowledge and power, social alterity, political authority, transgression and deviance, etc. Beginning with a historical genealogy of evil in cross-cultural perspective and building a critical analytics from there, this course makes use of sources from philosophy and anthropology, to history, folklore, sociology, and religious studies, and invites students to reflect critically, and through an interdisciplinary lens, on the social, philosophical, and moral life of evil.