Named with an Ojibwa word meaning “Great River,” the Mississippi River is 2,320 miles long, with a drainage basin covering 32 states and roughly 40 percent of the United States land mass. This course considers the river as both an historical and an imaginative site, a place where a diversity of peoples have lived, worked, loved, fought, and died, and also as a place that has played a role in the imaginations of those peoples. We will focus especially on the Mississippi River as it shaped the United States, and as Americans— from Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak (Black Sparrow Hawk) to Thomas Jefferson, from enslaved African Americans to the modern-day Houma people, from Mark Twain to the producers of the musical Show Boat—have constructed it, imagined it, and used it to tell stories about themselves and their worlds. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their relationship with the river and its history, and to develop projects framed by their own interests and educational goals.

This course can be used to fulfill:

- the CONNECTIONS core requirement
- the KNOW graduation requirement
- an upper-division elective in HISTORY major or minor
- the breadth requirement in AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

This course is **required** for all students interested in **Adventure: Mississippi River 2017**