

New Course for Fall 2023!

T/R 8:30-9:45

Instructor: Nick Pawliuk

ENGL 4770-01: Studies in Literature: *On the Road* and *Gilmore Girls*

This course will be an examination of two seemingly unrelated popular culture “events”: Jack Kerouac’s *On The Road* and Amy Sherman-Palladino’s long-running *Gilmore Girls* tv series. Starting with Kerouac and Gilbert Millstein’s positive review, we’ll delve deep into certain aspects of the text, looking closely at his idea of “beat” and its religious, philosophical and socio-economic roots. Finally, we’ll look at the structure of the work, and how Kerouac views the “Word” and his attempt to articulate it. Shifting to *Gilmore Girls*, we’ll look at how this “text” incorporates certain “Beat” references, what it does with them, how it refocuses them through a feminist lens, and, finally, narrative similarities with Kerouac. Ideally, we’ll try see how if these works of popular culture make significant comments on our culture and if they still speak to you.

