By any objective measure we are living in the safest times in human history, in one of the safest countries on earth. So why are we all so afraid? This course will investigate fear as a social phenomenon. We’ll investigate the social bases of some widely-held (but misplaced) fears, and how they affect American society. We’ll examine the Salem witch trials, moral panics, millennialism (fears related to the end of the world), and the politics of fear. At the conclusion of this course successful students will be able to think critically and sociologically about fear, how it is generated and exploited in 21st century American society, and how to better distinguish between real and imaginary fears.

For more information contact Dr. Hennen at hennen.6@osu.edu

Don’t be afraid! Enroll today . . . .