The class studies a range of literary works and films that depart from representational realism by extending the virtual tendencies of our actual world to create possible worlds that are grounded on nothing but their own becoming. We start from the belief that if otherness is central to literary and filmic experience it is because the Other opens up a possible world different from our own by exposing us to affects and sensations beyond everyday perceptions and opinions. By sampling a selected group of literary and filmic types or genres from various parts of the world (e.g. mystery, sci-fi, philosophical fiction, American western, European art film, Chinese martial arts film, Japanese anime, etc.), we will investigate how in each example the verbal or visual production of meaning depends on a thought from the outside of the actual and how the thought from the outside is capable of sinking its teeth into matters that a mimetic realism glosses over or relegates to a safe historical past, enabling us to access an infinity of experience beyond totality. What we are after, therefore, is not just a chance to face up to those discomfitting matters but a special literary and cinematic experience of creativity and revelation that can decompose our finite positions of moralism and ideology, preparing us for an ever-changing world open to all possibilities of life. The class fulfills the L&S international requirement.