NEW Flash Class ● New Topic!
(Not included in our Spring 2017 Class Schedule!)

The Historical Roots of Celebrity Culture
Instructor: Dr. Dustin Gann
One session: Wednesday, March 22
10:30 a.m. - noon
Maravilla Scottsdale – the Lodge
7325 E. Princess Blvd., Scottsdale, 85255

Lecture: Did you watch the Academy Awards on February 20th? Did you miss some of the actors and actress that we lost last year? During the month of January there were no celebrity obituaries to dominate the news cycle-something that might have seemed unfathomable in December when George Michael, Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds died in rapid succession to close a year that also marked the losses of Muhammad Ali, Prince, David Bowie, John Glenn, Arnold Palmer, Gordie Howe, Gene Wilder and Patty Duke. The number, profile and expansive range of celebrity deaths in 2016 prompted tweets, conversations, articles, tributes, memes, Facebook posts and tears. What makes someone a celebrity? How and why has the role of celebrities changed over the last century? Does the proliferation of minor celebrities represent a new phenomenon within American culture, or has contemporary media just increased the visibility of certain individuals? Join us as Professor Gann will share the answers to all of the questions, as well as, his insights and perspective to the ongoing national conversation about celebrity deaths and why they’re such a big deal.

Instructor: Dustin Gann earned a Ph.D. in 20th century United States history from the University of Kansas. His research broadly examines cultural production, with a specific focus on the perspectives and processes, which have shaped national culture. For the past four years he has been exploring the southwest while teaching within the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University.

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