Political scientist Brendan O’Leary usefully defines “partition” as occurring when “a previously unified territorial entity is divided into two or more parts, which may be marked with borders, codified in new maps, and operationalized, for example, in demarcated lines, perhaps accompanied by fences, walls, paint or barbed wire, or punctuated with official posts where passes or passports may be demanded.” This course will examine the debates about partition as a solution to territorial conflicts, as well as its ongoing legacies. With O’Leary’s definition as our starting point, we will survey some of the scholarly literature on partition drawn from a range of disciplines (history, political science, geography, and anthropology), before turning to specific case studies in Ireland, India/Pakistan, Israel/Palestine, and East/West Germany. Because partition necessarily involves a subjective dimension, our readings will also include novels and we will view some films to better understand the lived dimensions of this experience. Students should expect to write one 10-12 page paper, take three exams, and participate actively in class discussion.