The Burning Man festival is famous not only for the burning of a giant statue of a man, but also for the hundreds if not thousands of other rites that take place during the week-long festival in the desert. This seminar will consider questions such as (1) what is a ritual? (2) why are rituals so intensely compelling to both individuals and groups? (3) is Burning Man a modern form of religion and what difference does our answer to this question make? And finally (4) what is the role of ritual in our lives today? Student will review theoretical reading on these topics as well as create their own rituals in order to examine some of the fundamental questions about belief, creativity and the invention of tradition.

This course serves as an equivalent to RST 100 for majors and minors.

GE (New) / GE 3: World Cultures and Writing Experience.