Do you love the 1980s? Is The Breakfast Club, Wall Street, or The Princess Bride your muse for living your best life? Do you wish for radical or tubular to return to our everyday speech? Then this is the class for you! Netflix’s Stranger Things and GLOW have shown that there is a desire for 1980s nostalgia – to revisit the 1980s as a stage for more contemporary discussions about gender, science, education, and money. This class will explore some of the anxieties involving excessive wealth and authority in the 1980s through the literature and film of the time.

This will be a seminar style course where we will explore and discuss a particular topic; keeping up with the reading is essential. We will read books by Bret Easton Ellis, Tama Janowitz, and Don Delillo, as well as Alan Moore’s The Watchmen. Possible films include Wall Street, Fatal Attraction, Trading Places, and Heathers. We will cap off this class with a screening of American Psycho based on the novel written at the end of the 1980s. Students are expected to attend class, read the materials, participate in discussion, watch the assigned films, and write a critical essay (5 pages minimum) on some aspect of the film and literature. Mullets, acid wash jeans, and jelly bracelets optional.