This class examine the history of gender and sexuality in the United States from the colonial period to the present. Blending social, cultural, and political history, we'll place particular emphasis on the lived experiences of women and men from a wide range of backgrounds. One of our primary goals in this course will be to explore how definitions of 'femininity' and 'masculinity' have shifted over time. In order to do so, we'll focus on several key themes. These include race, ethnicity, and sexual politics; the long struggle for women's rights; shifting family and sexual patterns; representations of gender in art, media, advertising, and pop culture; gender and workplace politics; and our contemporary culture wars. Come prepared to analyze American history from new perspectives, and to challenge traditional ideas about what counts as 'important' history.