This course covers the period from the late 1800s to the present. Over these 150 years, American women and their male sympathizers organized and supported several movements with the goal of attaining greater equality for women. Although we will cover a broad range of female experience, the thematic center of the course is the quest for equality, including the various meanings of equality for different groups and the several strategies meant to bring about change. Assignments include the reading and discussion of half a dozen books. There will be a midterm and a final exam based mostly on essay questions. Each student will also write a history of the women in their own families, emphasizing the two previous generations—an assignment that most students find both meaningful and fun.