

Gender and the US Military

Description of the Course:

From the minutemen of the Revolution to the legend of Molly Pitcher, from the doughboys of World War I to the WACS and WAVES of World War II, men and women have served in and alongside the US military. During wartime and peacetime, the military has distinctly affected male and female livelihoods, social status, cultural experiences, political participation, and citizenship. The armed forces have also shaped and reflected ideas about masculinity and femininity – what it means to be a man or woman – in American life. This course explores the history of the United States military and its role as a gendered and gendering institution for men and women. Students will explore theories of gender and militarization, learn some of the basic themes of history of gender and the military in the United States, and above all, engage in original research on topics in gender and US military history.