This course will examine the history of feminist consciousness and feminist resistance in Western cultures from prehistoric times to the early twentieth century. Topics that will be covered include definitions of feminisms, theories of the origins of patriarchies, women’s place and feminine symbolism in major religions (Judaism, Christianity, Muslim, and Native American spiritualities); women’s struggle for formal education; women’s participation in early modern science; suffrage movements in Europe and North America, and women’s access to higher education and the professions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The emphasis throughout the course will be on developing conceptions of feminisms that are inclusive of women’s resistance in many different contexts.

Required readings:


Assignments and Grading:

Tutorial Participation 10%
Three short take home assignments (2-3 pages each) 30%
Short paper (5-7 pages) on a feminist or a feminist political issue 30%
Final exam (TBA) 30%

*Designated Credit*: Students may apply to the Liberal Arts Department to obtain 3 lower division credits toward a Certificate in Liberal Arts.