This course examines the social, cultural, political, and sexual history of LGBT Americans from the colonial period to the present. We will explore how historians have recovered the LGBT past to show how queer people have profoundly shaped American history. Key themes include the boundaries of same-sex friendship, desire, and community; the emergence and evolving meanings of heterosexuality and homosexuality as categories of identity, as well as other categories of sexuality and personhood; the medicalization of sexuality; modern queer cultures before and after the emergence of the post-World War II liberation movements; LGBT rights; and other topics. We will also study themes of race, class, ethnicity, nationality, gender, science, and religion as they are integral forces within LGBT history. Finally, students will "do" LGBT history as they research and examine newly available local archival collections.