This course introduces students to the study of sexuality from historical, cross-cultural, contemporary and global perspectives. We will look at the different meanings given to sexuality and the ways in which sexual practices are codified in diverse contexts so as to consider the roles of culture, economy, race, gender, and social structure, etc. in shaping people’s understandings of their most intimate senses of themselves. We ask: what is defined as sex and what is prescribed and prohibited in diverse societies over time? What is considered normal and what perverse? How is sexuality related to gender, homosexuality, and trans identities? Over all, we will explore sexuality as a contingent formation that functions as a dense site of power, rather than strictly something we do and an identity we are. To this end, we will explore key episodes in the U.S. history of sexuality, as well as explore how sexuality has functioned as an arm of nationalism, warfare, and other political events. Sexuality, in other words, is not a private matter, but a key arena through which power shapes our daily lives. Since sexuality studies is an exciting, interdisciplinary field, readings, films and guest lectures include historical, creative, theoretical, sociological, and sexological approaches.