This class will draw on novels, photography, film, magazines and journals, and sociological and historical literature to investigate the representations and realities of diverse mothers in the United States. We will consider historical contexts as well as contemporary policy and politics that shape the experiences of mothers and the ways we interpret and judge their lives and needs. Special attention will be paid to immigrant mothers, African American mothers, and low-income mothers in the twentieth-century and contemporary US. Students will write two short papers or one longer paper, the choice will be theirs.