This combined lecture/discussion course is an exploration of the histories and lives of Native American women. The temporal and geographical sweep of the class is broad, covering Native women's lives at key moments in four centuries (with a focus on the 20th), across multiple regions (Northeast, Midwest, South, Southwest, Plains, West Coast), and in several Native American nations. The course addresses a number of central themes, such as: concepts of family and intimate relationships; spiritual understandings and notions of tradition; gender roles and cross-cultural gender difference; processes of colonialism, conceptions of land and effects of land dispossession; cultural negotiation, change, and continuity; public representation and misrepresentation; and personal, familial, and tribal perseverance. The course also attends closely to the biographies and contributions of Native women pathbreakers, envoys, intellectuals, essayists, memoirists, poets, short-story writers, stage performers, and filmmakers. Student writing assignments for this course include reader response papers that may be creative (rather than expository) in form, along with a final research paper that is based on primary sources.