From “No Taxation Without Representation” to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the ideas and events of the American Revolution still resonate in collective consciousness of the United States. Yet the meanings and legacies of the American Revolution are also hotly contested. Americans revere the Constitution while debating the scope of the First and Second Amendments, and lay claims to a mythical singular “original intent” of the founding generation when it comes to taxes, militias, liberty, equality, and even democracy itself. In this course, we’ll look at the origins of the American Revolution and how the process of creating a new nation unfolded. We’ll also discuss the changing and competing interpretations of the American Revolution, and challenge many longstanding beliefs about the Revolution by considering it from the perspectives of women, African Americans, Native Americans, and others who did not have a seat at the table. Grades will be based on discussion participation, weekly short response projects, and a final essay.