We’ve all heard of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Paul Revere, right? We’re familiar with “No Taxation Without Representation,” “The English are coming,” and “We the People,” but the American Revolution cannot, and should not, be simplified to the narrative of the same few individuals and slogans. Today, Americans venerate the constitution while hotly debating the scope of the first and second amendments, and in the eighteenth-century, ideas of freedom and individual rights were as contested as they are today. This course considers the American Revolution from a social history perspective to uncover the lived experience of those underrepresented in traditional discourse, including women, indigenous people, the enslaved, and the poor, to examine what ideas of “freedom” and “liberty” meant to them. Each week, the lectures will follow the chronological themes of causes, war, and aftermath to provide background to the week’s readings. Further readings, podcasts and films will closely examine what effect the revolution had on marginalized groups of American society. Grades will be based on discussion participation, weekly short response papers, and a final essay.