When we discuss U.S. history, we often focus on the big questions of politics and economics, law, and religion. And those things have major impacts on ordinary Americans. But often we can better understand what their daily lives were like and how they thought about big issues by looking at what we would call popular culture. This class examines sports, music, drama, celebrity gossip, TV, movies--the entertainment that can occupy so much of our attention. While we'll be analyzing some examples of scholarly work on these subjects, most of the class will be geared to helping you conceive, write, polish, and present your own project.