This course will investigate the intersection of constructed ideas about “the South” with constructed ideas about “womanhood” (and necessarily its foil “manhood”), paying special attention to literary, historical, and filmic representations. Readings may include primary texts by an assortment of 19th century authors, as well as more recent work by Toni Morrison, Ellen Douglas, Mab Segrest, and Monique Truong. Secondary texts may include works by Judith Butler, Tara McPherson, Laura Edwards, Thadious Davis, and Tera Hunter. Films to be determined. Among the assignments will be an interview project, weekly written responses, an outside book review, and a final research paper on a related subject of the student’s choosing.