Nineteenth-century Americans repeatedly examined and interpreted the ideals of the Revolution. Periodically, as grass roots movements tried to expand the benefits that founding fathers originally guaranteed for elite white males, powerful reform movements arose that challenged established authorities, compelling them to either accommodate popular demands or coerce a restoration of the status quo. This course investigates the resulting clashes that characterized reform efforts throughout the century, including those centered on anti-slavery, women's suffrage, temperance, labor, and a host of other causes. (Might not be offered every year.)