Popular culture in the US struggles with its representations of women, and often depicts stereotypical, one-dimensional, and/or over-sexualized images of women. In this course, we will analyze the ways in which women are represented in film, television, comic books, video games, and other fictions. We will also investigate the women who produce popular culture, and examine their strategies for addressing and dismantling these stereotypical and problematic portrayals. Are fictional representations damaging to real women? (Spoiler: Yes). What do we want, then, out of our culture in terms of how it represents women? “Strong” women? “Positive” depictions? What do those terms mean? Why do some stereotypes refuse to die? (How can we help them along?)