This course is a readings seminar that focuses on the origins of progressivism in the United States, the contributions of progressives in reinterpreting American social and political thought, and the many forms their activism took between 1890 and 1930. This spring it will focus specifically on women, whose struggle for full rights of citizenship strongly shaped both their critiques of national institutions and their strategies for achieving social change. The first class will cover the larger themes of the Progressive Era and its historiography. The remainder of the first half of the course will take primarily a biographical approach in considering the importance of women as intellectuals, with particular attention to the relationship between progressivism, republicanism, religion, and democracy. The second half of the course will take a closer look at the varieties of female political activism and the extent to which women’s attempts to transform society did or did not achieve their goals.

The bulk of the course grade will come from two papers, one midterm and one final that analyze and synthesize the following readings:

8. Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House.*