Course Description: What does it mean to ‘fall’ in love? Who and what shaped your ideas about the processes and purposes of sex? Are relationships really a matter of personal choice? Are love, sex, and relationships just “natural” parts of being human beings? We will use a sociological lens to examine relational beliefs and behaviors, and how they are shaped by forces outside of ourselves. This exploration will include topics such as gender role development, love, dating, sexuality, mate selection, marriage, alternative relationship choices, and parenthood. We will read essays, articles, analyze media, engage in some research, and have daily discussion and writing time. Students will be required to complete and should be prepared to thoughtfully discuss all readings, to participate in curricular and co-curricular activities at the college, to give at least one oral presentation, and to write two three-to-five page essays and one five-page essay with research.