This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies through examining American religious lives and how religious beliefs (and non-beliefs) connect with American cultures and communities. We will look at “America” across disciplines, methods, communities, spaces/places, and media to analyze how issues related to religious beliefs intersect with issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, and sexuality. While religion is an individual engagement and practice, religious lives also connect with larger political, economic, social, and cultural configurations. We will examine how religious beliefs and non-beliefs have been justified as reasons for conflicts and marginalization of individuals and groups. We will also examine how religious beliefs can be used in productive practices of identities, as well as in meaningful projects, dialogues, and cooperation.