Recent studies estimate that nearly a billion people worldwide are disabled, among them more than 50 million Americans. However, the history of disability in America has largely been ignored. In this class, students will examine the not-so-hidden histories and culture of disabled Americans. Students will also discuss—and write about—contemporary topics, including the status of disabled veterans, portrayals of disability in popular culture, and predictions about the “end of disability” thanks to advanced technology. Ultimately, students will ponder what it means to be “disabled” and whether disability is more a product of external factors—laws, architecture, social attitudes, institutions—than of bodily impairment.