How are women, gender, and sexuality documented or absent in archives? Who gets to decide what events, individuals, and groups are important in narratives about our past and present? Who gets to use archives and to what end? What meaning is attached to the historical texts and objects gathered and recorded? Whose history matters? What is a “useable past”? How does our digital age pose new challenges to preserving the past and creating an archive of now?

Completing individual and collaborative research, we will explore these questions as we think about how we document and frame women’s and LGBT lives in the past and present. This hands-on course will include many guests as well as field trips on and off-campus as we consider what it is to do feminist historical research here in Houston and around the globe.