Beckman 205

With its explicit guarantee of equal rights and protections to every citizen regardless of sex under U.S. law, the currently unratified Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is steeped in cultural, Constitutional, and legal debates, a nearly one-hundred-year long battle in U.S. jurisprudence and in public memory over language and power. Primarily using critical discourse analysis and drawing from legal, feminist, and political perspectives, this project will analyze the cultural discourse around the ERA across time, creating a framework to assess the need, feasibility, and practical effects of adding such language to our Constitution today, as well as serving as a moral metric to reflect on the identity politics of American women and the larger nationalistic body politic of the United States.