

This lecture course surveys art of the United States, from the American Revolution to the Armory Show of 1913. Our approach will be to situate the images, visual practices, and artistic styles of this period within their social, historical, and cultural contexts. Among the topics we will consider are art and national politics, art and daily life, portraiture and the self, picturing war, art and popular culture, race and representation, exhibition culture, the idea of the modern artist, and European influences on American art.

In exploring these topics we will pay particular attention to the role that artistic production and consumption played in constructing American social identities and culture in the long nineteenth century.

In addition to attending lectures, students will make several visits to area museums to view original artworks. These visits will serve as the basis for the two writing assignments in the course.