

ARTH-A640: PROBLEMS IN MODERN ART: RELIGION, ART, AND CONFLICT



FALL 2017
CLASS #12633
PROFESSOR
CORDULA GREWE
FINE ARTS 002
T 3:30-6:30



Through historical and contemporary case studies, this course will examine the intersection of religion and politics through the lens of the arts. What do particular artistic expressions reveal about religious influences and worldviews within specific social and historical contexts? How do political assumptions about religion and culture influence artistic expression? How do intrinsic (academic) rules of art-making shape the response of particular genres (from painting and print to movies and theater)? The course is divided into roughly four segments. The first segment consists of an introduction of the tools of analysis and the methods that will be employed for our exploration of the intersections among religion, the arts and global conflict. The second segment focuses on two case studies in depth: 1) the Christian Passion story and, 2), the Sacraments both in historic and contemporary representations. The third segment will consist of a series of shorter case studies chosen by the class from among several options. The fourth segment will focus on the construction and presentation of individual final projects that can take the form of either a personal artistic creation representing the themes of the course or a new case study.