What does it mean to be “American,” and what does American art look like? This introductory art history course looks at how a diverse range of artists, architects, and designers attempted to answer those still unsettled questions, from the signing of the Declaration of Independence through the end of World War II. Our investigation will consider a wide range of visual evidence, from paintings, photographs, and sculpture, to quilts, furniture, advertisements, posters, world’s fairs, and films; it will take us to the front lines of battle, along the western frontier, through the halls of Congress, and into the lives of everyday citizens. No previous art history knowledge or experience is required.