



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 (1776) through the end of World War II (1945). 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. Join us for an optional field trip to the Indianapolis war memorials, where we will practice our analytical skills as we move through this living laboratory of artistic commemoration. Lectures, reading assignments, short papers, and unit tests will help you learn to write with confidence and historical precision about the many ways that artists have reported, reacted to, and shaped changing concepts of American identity. (No previous art history knowledge or experience is required.)

ARTH-A220 AMERICAN ARTS / AMERICAN IDENTITIES 1776-1945

FALL 2017
CLASS #11096
PROFESSOR
MELODY BARNETT DEUSNER
FINE ARTS 010
MW 1:00–2:15

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