What is contemporary art and why does it matter? This undergraduate introductory course provides a chronological overview of contemporary art (roughly 1960 to tomorrow) with a particular focus on the social and political engagements that have informed artistic developments in America, as well as global art markets and curatorial practice in recent decades. In addition to cultivating an understanding of why particular artists and artworks have altered the course of art history, this class also examines how artists’ engagement with globalization, tourism, protest culture, technology, current world conflicts, and social media platforms have much to teach us about our daily interactions and encounters in the 21st century. No prior knowledge of art history is required. Students with an interest in visual culture, fashion, design, international studies, museums, and the aesthetics of resistance are especially encouraged to enroll.