This course will address major issues and ideas that characterize the complex nature of the American experience expressed through visual imagery. Methods will be introduced for approaching the study of visual art as cultural history. Seminal works will be examined in the context of historical events as key texts for the interpretation of cultural values. Traditional views will be explored, expanded and challenged.

COURSE EVALUATION: Grades will be based on class participation and presentations, journals and essays. Each of the four sections will receive equal weight (25% each). Attendance and participation in all class discussions is, therefore, crucial.

JOURNAL: The journal will consist of an analysis of one article per week relevant to the topic of that week’s discussion. It will be up to the student to find an article on the web possibly through JStor. At the beginning of each class every student will give a brief (2-5 minute) introduction to the scope of the article that they have discovered.

ESSAY: Each student is required to write a research paper of 20 to 30 pages on an American art movement, period, or style. In the paper the student will explore its meaning, impact, sources, public reception, and its representation of cultural values. Explain how the cultural values reflect the ethos of the period and the historical events and social issues of the period.

HONOR CODE
MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:

In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor system: To be honest in any academic endeavor: and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT:
If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.
LECTURE SCHEDULE: READING ASSIGNMENTS IN POHL

JANUARY 8
INTRODUCTION: FROM THE BEGINNING
INITIAL ARRIVALS TO EUROPEAN IMAGES OF THE NEW WORLD
READING: Section1pp.15-63.
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
Exploring the meaning of American Art
The European vision of America and its inhabitants

JANUARY 15
EARLY COLONIAL ARTS
READING: Sections 1&2, pp. 63-85
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
Missions and Missionaries
The appearance of portraiture as an indicator of affluence

JANUARY 22
CONSTRUCTING A MYTHOS OF THE NEW NATION
READING: Section 2, pp. 86-137
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
The character of the new nation, its inhabitants, and their world view
Creating a visible history
Portraits underscore fame and provide a lasting tribute

JANUARY  29
MEANING AND METAPHOR IN LANDSCAPE
READING: Section3, pp. 137-195
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
The symbolism and representation of America as the open land:
A New World Garden of Eden

FEBRUARY 5
TELLING STORIES: GENRE PAINTING AS A MIRROR OF POPULAR CULTURE
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
Regional, cultural, & ethnic identity
Contrasting images in the roles of men and women
Political themes

FEBRUARY 12
WESTWARD EXPANSION AND IMAGES OF NATIVE AMERICANS
READING: Section3, pp. 162-178
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
Painting versus Photography in constructing a Native American image
The myth of America and the new image of The West
Manifest Destiny and cultural hegemony
FEBRUARY 19
PRELUDE TO THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH
   READING: Section 4, pp. 195-248
   ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
      Slavery before and after the Civil War
      The impact of photography
      Realism as a mode of representation

FEBRUARY 26
FROM THE 1876 CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION TO THE WORLD’S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION IN 1893
   READING: Section 5, pp. 251-321
   ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
      America as a new world power
      The role of the machine
      From Agrarian to urban – the changing landscape
      Architecture as an escape to the past

MARCH 5
THE IMMIGRATION OF AMERICAN MODERNISM
   READING: Section 6, pp. 321-387
   ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
      The impact of technology: trains, cars, planes, movies, electricity & skyscrapers
      The transformative experience of the Armory Show

MARCH 12
SPRING BREAK

MARCH 19
THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE AND THE RISE OF THE NEW NEGRO
   READING: Section 6, pp. 372-382
   ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
      Afro-Centric artistic expression

MARCH 26
ART FOR THE PEOPLE: THE DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL
   READING: Section 7, pp. 387-457
   ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
      Regionalism and the Colonial Revival as a retrogressive stance
      The influence of an influx of Mexican artists
      WPA Photography in the service of the poor
      The impact of the Dustbowl

MARCH 28 SATURDAY 10:00-2:00
MUSEUM TOUR: THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART AND THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

APRIL 2
EASTER RECESS
APRIL 9
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM, THE NEW YORK SCHOOL & THE COLD WAR
READING: Section 8, pp. 457-488
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
- The residue of World War II
- Explorations of Zen Buddhism and Surrealism
- The impact of European émigrés
- Eliminating boundaries

APRIL 16
THE PLURALISM OF LATE 20TH CENTURY MODERNISM TO POST-MODERNISM
MINIMALISM, POP ART, CONCEPTUAL ART, EARTH ART, FEMINIST ART
READING: Section 8, pp. 488-565
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
- Diversity in media and ideas
- Multi-culturalism raises new voices: the salad bowl not the melting pot
- Guerilla Girls and the emergence of feminist art

APRIL 23
ENVISIONING THE 21ST CENTURY
READING: Section 8, pp. 565-576
ISSUES TO ADDRESS:
- SUMMATION OF COURSE - DISCUSSION OF NEW DIRECTIONS

**JOURNALS DUE**
**PAPERS DUE**