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AJL17088 / AJL27095: Murals of North America: A Century of Social and Political Commentary

Course Objectives

For the past century, visual artists have turned to public outdoor and indoor murals to provide social and political commentary. This mini-course will survey some of the major highlights of this vibrant tradition in North America. It will look at three major developments that have made durable contributions to 20th and 21st century art history generally and to socially conscious art specifically. The three areas are Mexican muralism of the early to mid-20th century, U.S. social and political murals from the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal in the 1930s and beyond, and the American Mural renaissance from the late 1960s to the present.

Course Schedule (UPDATED)

October 3 – November 2, 2022 | online via Zoom

Twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays: 8:00–9:40pm (20:00–21:40)

Course Requirements

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to be present for all classes, be on time, and above all, to actively participate in class discussions.
2. **ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLASSES:** There are no readings or assignments to complete between class sessions throughout the week.
3. **FINAL PAPER:** At the end of the semester, students must present an essay (3–4 double-spaced pages) on any topic reasonable related to the themes raised in the class sessions. Should you have any questions, the instructor will explain this in greater detail during the first session. You are likewise welcome to consult potential essay topics during or after classes. Final research papers must be uploaded into the IS vault by January 15, 2023.