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The Art of Politics

This is a course on the complex relationship between art and politics, and the role of art in the creation of political discourse. How does art use its various media to influence politics? How does politics in turn try to control or influence the production of art? Through an examination of specific artists and specific works, we will explore the when, why, and how of political expression through the arts. This is not so much a course on artistic technique but rather a course that examines why art turns to politics, why politics turns to art, and what is gained, lost, or transformed in the process.

Week One

More than words: the many uses of art in the realm of politics

Week Two

The public image: the graphic arts and the representation of politics

Week Three

A good read: writing politics into literature

Week Four

Sounds good to me: politics in and around music