

Art in Its Time

Cornell's Adult University Summer 2023

The 1930's

Historical Overview

- 1929 Wall Street collapses, ushering in the Great Depression
- 1933 Franklin Roosevelt becomes President and initiates a New Deal
Ongoing "Harlem Renaissance"
- 1933 Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
- 1936 Nuremburg Laws curtail rights of the Jews in Germany
Roosevelt wins a second term
- 1939 World War II begins in Europe

Essential Readings

Chapter 12 from The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck:

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/grape-of-wrath.pdf>

Introduction to the murals of Roosevelt Island

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HFJ-Revealed-2016.pdf>

I Paint What I See by E. B. White:

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/WHITE-I-Paint-What-I-See.pdf>

Suggested Readings

Excerpts from Studs Terkel's Hard Times

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Native-American.pdf>

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Turkel-interview.pdf>

Measure Twice by Margaret Talbot from April 26, 2021 New Yorker

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/04/26/did-home-economics-empower-women>

Selections from Langston Hughes

For Further Exploration

Films: The Wizard of Oz Gone With the Wind

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

The Gold Diggers of 1933

Books: Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by and Walker Evans

You Have Seen Their Faces by Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke-White

Playlist: Woody Guthrie, Duke Ellington, Judy Garland

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RsIssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

The 1940's

Historical Overview

- 1941 Battle of Britain
- 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked and the U.S. enters the war 1945
War ends in May in the European Theater
The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki contribute to the end of the war with Japan
- 1945 Nuremburg Trials reveal extent of the Holocaust

G.I. Bill enables veterans to pursue higher education
1946-64 "Baby Boom" era
1947 House Un-American Committee active; The Hollywood Blacklist and McCarthyism
1948 Truman integrates U.S. armed forces

Essential Readings

Chapter 5 of Franklin and Winston by Jon Meacham

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Franklin-and-Winston-reading.pdf>

The introduction from American Abstract Artists

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AAA-catalogue-essay.pdf>

A selection from The History of Gender

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-part-1.pdf>

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-part-2.pdf>

Suggested Readings

A selection from Studs Terkel's The Good War- Mr. Rosenblum

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/walter-roosenblum.pdf>

A selection from Hiroshima by John Hershey

For Further Exploration

Books: Hiroshima by John Hersey

Films: Netflix series: Transatlantic

The Class of the Century by Brian Frey WSKG

Casablanca

I Know Where I Am Going

Godzilla (Japanese version 1954)

It's a Wonderful Life

Music: Glenn Miller, Andrews Sisters, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Artie Shaw

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

The 1950's

Historical Overview

1950-3 Korean War

1952 Eisenhower is elected President

A period of "Cold War" continues

Polio outbreak continues until vaccine developed by Jonas Salk in 1955

1954 Brown vs. the Board of Education outlaws segregated schools

1959 Barbie doll created by Ruth Handler and marketed by Mattel

Hollywood Rat Pack: Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop

Essential Readings

Prologue to Ninth Street Women by Mary Gabriel

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Ninth-St.-Women.pdf>

Suggested Readings

“Fasting Girls: The Emerging Ideal of Slenderness in American Culture” by Joan Jacobs Brumberg (pp. 390-397) in *Women’s America*
On the Road by Jack Kerouac
Selections from poems by Allen Ginsberg

For Further Exploration

Films: A Streetcar Named Desire
Rebel Without a Cause
Ten Commandments
Ben Hur
Strangers on a Train
To Catch a Thief

Music: Elvis, Muddy Waters, Lena Horne, Frank Sinatra
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9Vvft?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

The 1960’s Historical Overview

1960 John Kennedy elected President
1961 The Cuban Missile Crisis
1963 Dr. Martin Luther King leads the March on Washington
1963 John F. Kennedy is assassinated
1964 “Freedom Summer” to register African-American voters in Mississippi
1966 Gold Medalist Mohammad Ali converts to the Nation of Islam and declares himself a conscientious objector
1965 Voting Rights Act is passed
1965 U.S. combat troops sent to Vietnam
1968 Dr. King is assassinated
Bobby Kennedy is assassinated
United Farm Workers under Cesar Chavez seek better working conditions
Riots in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention
American Indian Movement (AIM) begun in Minneapolis
1969 Richard Nixon becomes President
1969 Willard Straight Hall “take-over” makes national headlines
1969 Woodstock Concert
1969 Stonewall Riots

Essential Readings

Chapter 3 from *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Vonnegut.pdf>
“Why the Shirelles Mattered: Girl Groups on the Cusp of a Feminist Awakening” by Susan J. Douglas
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Shirelles-reading.pdf>
Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner
<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2005/06/conviction-1964-mississippi-civil-rights-killings-brings-sense-closure-cornell>
<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Murders-of-Chaney-Goodman-and-Schwerner.pdf>

Steve McConnell in Studs Terkel's The Good War, pps. 580-584

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Turkel-interview.pdf>

Suggested Readings

C.P. Ellis from Studs Terkel's American Dreams: Lost and Found

Hortman Turnbow from Studs Terkel's American Dreams: Lost and Found

Consumer Boycotts in the United States, 1970-1980: Contemporary Events in Historical Perspective:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23859226?socuid=58175705-c7ef-417d-9ad3-7b926ba742d4>

"The Reason I Sing This Song" from Dorothy Cotton's If Your Back's Not Bent

For Further Exploration

Books: Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Films: The Sound of Music

MASH

Westside Story

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Midnight Cowboy

"Freedom Riders" on PBS American Experience The Graduate

The Manchurian Candidate

Music: The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Rolling Stones, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Motown, Harry Belafonte

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>

The 1970's

Historical Overview

1970 Protesting college students shot dead at Kent State University in Ohio

1971 Ms. Magazine co-founded by Gloria Steinem

1971 Masterpiece Theater debuts

1972 Title IX provides equal opportunities for women

1973 Vietnam War winds down

Roe v. Wade legalizes abortion in the United States

Moosewood Restaurant opens

Wounded Knee occupied by American Indian Movement members

1974 Watergate hearings result in the resignation of President Nixon

1976 The United States celebrates the Bicentennial

Essential Reading

Betty Friedan from The Feminine Mystique, "The Crisis in Women's Identity", pp. 69-79

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Friedan.pdf>

Phyllis Schlafly, "The thoughts of one who loves life as a woman..."

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Schlafly-article.pdf>

The "Madman Theory" from Stanley Karnow's Vietnam A History

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Karnow-reading.pdf>

"No More Miss America!" (pp. 380-382) in The History of Gender in America

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-2.pdf>

Recommended Reading

Ramona Bennett from Studs Terkel's American Dreams: Lost and Found

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Native-American.pdf>

"Hardhats: Construction Workers, Manliness, and the 1970 Pro-War Demonstrations" (pp 347- 358) by

Joshua B. Freeman from The History of Gender in America

"Femininity in the Twentieth Century" (pp. 360-375) from The History of Gender in America

<https://alumni.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Gender-part-1.pdf>

Recommended Viewing

Agents of Change - available through Netflix- examines the 1969 Straight take-over and the resulting changes

For Further Exploration:

Books: Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown

Roots by Alex Haley

Executioner's Song by Norman Mailer

Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test by Tom Wolfe

Films: Rocky

The Godfather

Monty Python and the Holy Grail

The Deer Hunter

Annie Hall

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (also the book by Ken Kesey)

Apocalypse Now

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Music: Bruce Springsteen, Buffy St. Marie, Marvin Gaye, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Simon and Garfunkel

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/16RslssWSBsPd54vE9VvfT?si=2piLyh32QvGqtWcVdz5tSg>