

northwestern university  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year

Spring 2017

Course Number

ART-HIST 367

Day/Time

TR 12:30-1:50

Instructor

Bell

Course Title

Special Topics in American Art: Remembering the Civil War



This course will travel the still contested terrain of Civil War memory. Beginning with the immediate postwar period through Reconstruction and the present, we will consider how symbols (such as the Confederate flag), images (paintings, photographs, films), objects (souvenirs, commemorative sculpture), and sites (battlefield parks, cemeteries, plantations) have been enlisted in remembering the Civil War. Relying on scholarship about historical memory, we will study how representations of this pivotal

event in American history have been shaped by northern and southern whites as well as by African-Americans, aiming to understand the significance of different memories to different groups at specific historical moments. Background on the Civil War is helpful but not necessary; we'll be building our historical knowledge of the war and its aftermath as we examine Civil War memory-making. Be prepared for a visit to a site of Civil War remembrance in the Chicago area.

Required Textbooks

Tony Horwitz. Confederates in the Attic, New York: Vintage Books, 1999.  
Additional readings available through NUcat.

Assessments

Short responses to readings, films, or objects  
midterm take-home exam or paper (5-6 pages); final project or paper; attendance

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and participation in class discussion