Course Description: The final decades of the eighteenth century mark a turning point in the history of western political thought. The events of the American Revolution of 1776 and the French Revolution of 1789 were symptomatic of a radical shift in the cultural assumptions that had supported Old Regime society. In place of a hierarchical social organization based on a belief in the absolute authority of divine right there emerged a new model of selfhood which asserted the self-determining rights of the individual. This course examines transformations in the visual arts that attended this shift.