

LART-305 : Equality, the "American Dream," and the Struggle for Wealth

The purpose of this course is to explore the idea of equality in the American historical experience by analyzing class conflict and the competition for economic resources. The focal point of the course is working people and their efforts to achieve the "American Dream." The tension between labor and capital will provide the framework for the course. Ideas about equality from the American Revolution through the Civil War will be examined, and then tested by uncovering how the idea of equality translates into the industrial age and beyond. Specific attention is devoted to the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, as well as the New Deal, and the current debate over income equality.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

College Writing (LITC-100).