The visual arts of Europe and America provide a fascinating entry into a study of the history, religion, and ideas that have shaped our culture. In this course you will learn about some of the greatest masterpieces of the western tradition, beginning with art and architecture of the ancient world, and ending with the art of our own time.

Prof. Jay Curley, TR 11:00am -12:15pm, SFAC 102

Prof. Laura Veneskey TR 12:30 -1:45pm, SFAC 102
This course offers an introduction to the history of world architecture, beginning with the ancient period and moving chronologically to the modern period. It focuses on key monuments from a diversity of geographical zones, taking a truly global approach. We will examine a range of examples to discuss such interpretive issues as patronage, ritual, architectural practice, and urbanism.
This course offers an introduction to the art and architecture of the Islamic world, from the Alhambra to the Taj Mahal, and from miniature paintings of Persia to the vivid Iznik tiles of Turkey. We begin with the early years of Islam and move chronologically to the present. The course includes masterpieces of art and architecture from Islamic Spain, North Africa, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and South Asia. We will cover paintings, ceramics, book arts, architecture, and urbanism.

Art 203 earns credit towards Major, Divisional, MESASP (Middle East and South Asian Studies), and CD (Cultural Diversity) requirements.
This course will view and discuss selected masterpieces of world from 1930-1980. We will emphasize developing skills for viewing, discussing, and writing about motion pictures as visual and dramatic art. Students must register for both Art 260 and 260 L (group film screening).

Monday: required screening
Wednesday: required discussion meeting
Art 260L: Tuesday 3:30pm or 7:00pm, required second film screening of the week
The 14th century in Italy was a time of transition and change. New republics were formed, but conflicts arose between neighboring city-states. New approaches to literature and religion form the background for the art of Giotto and others, but the devastating plague of 1348 brought much of it to a halt. The art of the period can be charming, elegant, or terrifying, and it lays the groundwork for the Renaissance.
The course considers the complex and often contradictory terrain of artistic production in the United States and Europe since 1945. This has been a time of tremendous upheavals: World War II and its physical and psychological wounds, the horrors of the Holocaust and the dropping of atomic bombs, the cold war and its tensions, the uprisings on both sides of the iron curtain in 1968, détente, the collapse of communism in 1989, and increased globalization since. We will explore the various ways artists have negotiated this complex and changing world.
Recent studies have suggested that the eighteenth century witnessed the birth of the modern world. This lecture course examines the fascinating cultural production of eighteenth-century Europe in this context. Our discussion will set art within a broad cultural and historical framework, with some emphasis on England and France. We will consider such themes as travel, collecting, taste, and the ideal of the family as expressed in art. This class fulfills the 1400-1800 requirement for the art history major.
This seminar will examine the history of the art museum from its origins in the Renaissance “cabinet of curiosities” to the present day. How and why did the art museum develop? How has it changed over time? We will seek to place the art museum as a cultural institution within an active social framework, divided into two parts: the history of the art museum and issues in art museums today. Whenever possible, we will consider and visit area art museums. Counts towards the seminar requirement for the Art History major. Non-majors can enroll with POI.
This seminar examines the history of art history and current debates about its theory and practice. By exploring the roots of art history as a field of study, examining the works of some its most influential thinkers, and charting the historical shifts in the field, students will gain a broad and critically informed understanding of the discipline. We will explore art history as a field of intellectual inquiry that has developed and changed over time. Required for the art history major. POI only for non-majors.