The History of Art I: Ancient to Medieval
Spring 2019
(April 1, 2019 – May 20, 2019)

Mondays, 10am-12.30pm
Gleacher Center

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Course Description:
This course presents a chronological survey of the history of art through an examination of canonical artists, artworks, and monuments from Antiquity to the late Medieval period. After a brief introduction to art history, we will start with developments of the Ancient Greek and Roman worlds. We will then look at the impact of early Islam and Christianity on the art of the Mediterranean. We will conclude by studying the art of “middle ages” in Northern Europe. This is Part I of a three-part series. While helpful to take all three sequentially, this is not required and each class is not cumulative, though it does seek to track the trends and developments across different time periods and geographical regions throughout the history of art.

Course Objective:
Upon completion of this course, students should possess:

• Basic understanding of the methodologies of art history
• General knowledge of a selection of canonical works of art
• A solid foundation for critically thinking about and discussing works of art

Readings
All readings, unless noted in the class schedule below, will be from an assigned textbook, which will be used in all three parts of this course sequence: Fred S. Kleiner. Gardner's Art Through the Ages: A Concise Global History. 4th edition. Boston: Wadsworth/Cengage, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-305-57780-0. The text is available through the Gleacher Center Bookstore and through online retailers. While the course is structured around the 4th edition, previous editions are also acceptable.

Course Schedule
Session 1 – April 1
Introduction to the History of Art / Art of the Ancient World
Read Kleiner, Introduction: What is Art History?; Chapter 1: Prehistory and the First Civilizations

Session 2 – April 8
The Ancient Mediterranean and Near East
Review Kleiner, Chapter 1; Read Kleiner, Chapter 2: Ancient Greece

Session 3 – April 15
The Parthenon and Cultural Patrimony
Review Kleiner, Chapter 2; “What is Cultural Heritage?,” Khan Academy, https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-history-basics/beginners-art-history/a/what-is-cultural-heritage

Session 4 – April 22
The Roman Empire
Read Kleiner, Chapter 3: The Roman Empire

Session 5 – April 29
Byzantium
Read Kleiner, Chapter 4: Early Christianity and Byzantium

Session 6 – May 6
Art of the Islamic World
Read Kleiner, Chapter 5: The Islamic World

Session 7 – May 13
The Medieval World
Read Kleiner, Chapter 6: Early Medieval and Romanesque Europe

Session 8 – May 20
The Gothic Cathedral
Read Kleiner, Chapter 7: Gothic and Late Medieval Europe