This course surveys the history of Western art from its beginnings in the cave paintings of the paleolithic to the early Italian Renaissance. Rather than moving briskly through millennia of art and architecture, the course will be structured around ten important works or buildings, which we will treat in depth. Treating painting, sculpture, and architecture, the class will cover the major monuments from ancient Egypt, Greek and Roman antiquity, the Islamic World, and medieval Europe, among others. By situating these works within their historical contexts, we will study how the visual arts have been used to further various political, social, and religious ends. The class will make use of the rich holdings of the Yale University Art Gallery and Beinecke Library, allowing us to study original works of art face-to-face. In class discussions and written assignments, students will develop their ability to look at and describe works of art, paying special attention to the way in which artworks present their unique visions of the world.

**Looking Diary**
Each week, students will submit a one-page account of close looking done at the Yale University Art Gallery. You are free to choose any object that is in roughly the same chronological range that we cover in class. This range can be considerable: we will cover millennia in a week. The purpose of this exercise in looking is to help you refine your eye and develop a language with which to communicate your observations. Outside research is not necessary, and personal reflections or musings are welcome. Format your entry with the subject, medium, culture or author, date range, and accession number of the work at the top of the page single-spaced. The diary is not formal, but it should be handed in as a polished piece of writing free of major errors.

**Tests**
There will be two short tests, during classes VI and X. These tests will require you to write short essays about the major works we are studying.

**Grade Breakdown**
Test 1 40%,
Test 2 40%,
Looking Diary 10%
Participation 10%

**Readings**
All readings will be available as .pdfs on Canvas; hard copies will be placed on reserve in Haas Arts Library.
I. Cave paintings of Chauvet (ca. 30,000 BCE)
   Course Introduction
   Visit to Peabody Museum

II. Complex of Cheops, Giza (ca. 2500 BCE)
   Visit to YUAG
   Readings: Bill Manley, *Egyptian Art*, pp. 45-60
   W.S. Smith, *The Art and Architecture of Ancient Egypt*, pp. 95-118
   Ancient Egyptian Pyramid texts (selections)
III. Victory Stele of Naram-Sin (ca. 2300-2200 BCE)
Visit to Yale Babylonian Collection at Peabody Museum
Readings: Zainab Bahrani, Art of Mesopotamia, pp. 112-133
The King List: When the Kingship Was Lowered from Heaven

IV. Parthenon (5th c. BCE)
Campus Architecture Visit
Readings: Richard Neer, Greek Art and Archaeology, pp. 266-292

V. Primaporta Augustus (1st c. CE)
Visit to YUAG
Readings: Paul Zanker, The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus, pp. 167-93
Res Gestae (selections)
VI. Vienna Genesis (6th c. CE)
Test 1
Readings: John Williams, ed. *Imaging the Early Medieval Bible*, pp. 1-4, 9-21
Jeffrey Spier, ed. *Picturing the Bible: The Earliest Christian Art*, pp. 1-24

VII. Apse mosaic of Virgin Theotokos, Hagia Sophia (ca. 867 CE)
Visit to YUAG
Readings: Cormack, *Byzantine Art*, pp. 78-117
Patriarch Photios, Homily 17

VIII. Great Mosque of Cordoba (987 CE)
Visit to Beinecke Rare Book Library
Readings: Ettinghausen, Grabar, and Jenkins-Madina, *Islamic Art and Architecture 650-1250*, pp. 3-8, 82-101

**IX. Sainte Foy, Conques (1125-1135 CE)**
Bernard of Angers, *The Book of Sainte Foy’s Miracles*, selections

**X. Chartres Cathedral (1140-1220 CE)**
**TEST 2**
Campus Architecture Scavenger Hunt
Readings: Michael Camille, *Gothic Art: Glorious Visions*
Abbot Suger on the Church of St. Denis