This team-thought survey course will examine the history of the visual arts in the Western world from Ancient Egypt (ca. 3000 BC) to the end of the Gothic era in Europe (ca. 1400 AD). The course will focus primarily on developments in the “major arts” of architecture, sculpture and painting, although other media, such as ceramics, jewelry and small-scale metalwork, and textiles will also be addressed. In lecture and discussion sections, we will approach the individual works of art with to specific goals in mind: 1) to understand the works of art in terms of their formal structure, artistic innovations, and stylistic development, and 2) to situate the works in their specific historical and cultural contexts in order to understand better how different societies lived and perceived the world around them.