



ARTH-A500 HISTORIOGRAPHY

FALL 2018 CLASS # 30776
PROFESSOR SARAH BASSETT
T 2:30-5:30
GEOLOGY 407

How does art come to have a history and what shape does such a history take? This course explores this question by examining the various strategies that have emerged for defining, thinking, and writing about art from the period of classical antiquity to the early 20th century. Students will read and discuss a range of historical sources, among them philosophical discourses, instructional manuals, descriptions, and biographies with the aim of understanding these materials methodologically as examples of conceptual and analytical practice and historically as products of their respective cultures. Ultimately, the goal is to understand something of the traditions that pre-date modern art historical practice and the habits of thought from and against which modern approaches to the visual arts emerged.