

Why do we talk about art the way we do? This course will explore the history and practice of western art history from antiquity to the late 20th century through a combination of close study of art historical texts and conversations with professional art historians working both in academia and in museums. In the class students will be asked to engage with texts significant to the development of the history of art both as products of times and cultural environments in which they were produced, and as examples of art historical methods that are still in use today. Students will be asked to develop and carry out their own research projects in which they evaluate how a specific artwork or artist has been received over time. Interviews with scholars and curators will provide additional perspectives about how art history is practiced today and what the future might hold for the discipline. This course is open to juniors and seniors with a background in art history, including (but not restricted to) majors and minors.