CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
Surveys Baroque and Rococo art and architecture in Europe, Latin America, and Asia from ca 1580 to ca 1780 with a particular focus on Italy and France. Includes the work of Caravaggio, Bernini, Georges De La Tour, Rubens, Rembrandt and others. Looks at the impact on the arts of religion, patronage, international politics, plague, and other factors. Considers interaction between International Baroque and Rococo with local traditions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course considers European and Latin American art and architecture from around 1580 to 1780, the period usually defined as Baroque & Rococo. An era of astonishing artistic activity, it was marked by lavish patronage by popes, cardinals, and princes, centring on the cosmopolitan capitals of Rome, Paris, and Amsterdam, with prodigious activity in city and country from Lisbon to St Petersburg, Lima to Buenos Aires. This period was characterized by fundamental changes in society, including the rebirth of the Catholic Church as we know it today, new and revolutionary scientific discoveries, a new global awareness, warfare and plague, and the growth of political absolutism. Explores how these developments informed the style, iconography, and patronage of art and architecture, and highlights artists such as Caravaggio, Bernini, Borromini, Rubens, Rembrandt, Velázquez, and De La Tour. Taking the position that international versions of Baroque & Rococo are dialects of a global language, it explores the uniqueness of global variants of Baroque art and architecture and how they relate to their social context. Topics considered include the clash between Classical and Gothic traditions, the rise of the academies, landscape painting, still life, and genre painting, as well as the concept of the Baroque unity of the arts, or “bel composto.” This course will not only consider painting, sculpture, and architecture, but also décor and “decorative arts,” ephemera, and gardens.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The course will consist of two lectures a week. There will be three slide identification/comparison tests and a five-page essay due in the second last week of classes.