DEPARTMENT OF
ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

ARTH 260 / 3.0
Culture and Conflict

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
An investigation of the impact of war on art and architecture, as well as human attempts to preserve cultural heritage. A chronological or thematic approach, with focus placed on case studies, such as: the Triumphs of Caesar, the Sacks of Rome, the Napoleonic wars, World War II, the Cultural Revolution in China, Afghanistan under the Taliban.

Prerequisites: Level 2 or above or permission of the Department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
From Ancient Mesopotamia to Europe during WWII and Syria today, this course examines the enormous impact of war and other military conflicts on cultural heritage, focusing on monuments and works of art. In lectures that move both chronologically through time and geographically from place to place, several themes are explored: cultural damage and destruction during conflict (Temple of Bel, Palmyra), the looting of works of art (Napoleon and the Nazis), erecting monuments to celebrate military victory (Trajan’s Column), human responses to heritage destruction including restoration and rebuilding (Coventry Cathedral), the desire for recovery of national heritage (Parthenon Marbles), and the rise of international efforts to safeguard heritage (UNESCO).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
This is an in-class lecture course with required readings available as e-reserves via onQ and the Library. The lectures and readings are tested every two weeks with onQ quizzes, there are two short essays, and a final exam in the exam period.