This seminar offers an introduction to principal architectural and art historical monuments that make up the cultural landscape of Chicago. Like any major city, Chicago has come to be associated with and by its well-known and revered works of art and architecture. Grant Wood’s *American Gothic*, Monet’s *Haystacks*, and Gustave Caillebotte’s *Paris Street; Rainy Day* are just some of the most famous paintings whose renown is linked with that of the city itself. Anish Kapoor’s 2006 *Cloud Gate* (also known as *The Bean*) is a massive public sculpture that reflects the forms of its visitors and viewers as well as the skyline of downtown Chicago: it is exemplary of how interconnected the art and architecture and identity of the city are. By way of individual research work and frequent site visits, students will develop an understanding of major architectural interventions around the turn of the 20th century and the rise of early skyscrapers; the impact of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright; the high modernism of Mies van der Rohe; and signature contemporary buildings by Rem Koolhaas and Renzo Piano, among others. We will also study the canonical artworks that form the core of the Art Institute of Chicago’s collection (Impression, in particular) as well as works of contemporary art at the Museum of Contemporary Art and in other exhibition spaces as well. Our emphasis will be on making sense of the ways in which the art and architecture of Chicago can be understand as organs in a living, developing city.

**Required Textbooks**

Alice Sinkevitch, ed., *AIA Guide to Chicago*, 0156379759; Douglas Druick, ed., *Master Paintings in the Art Institute of Chicago*, 030019188X; a Reader containing articles will also be available.

**Assessments**

Regular brief presentations and written submissions; participation in seminar discussion; final research paper.