Why are the first naturalistic statues nude? Why are they made of bronze rather than stone or wood? What was the culture of citizenship, competition and athleticism in daily life, and its impact on the representation of the human figure? This course is a survey of ancient Greek art from its beginnings in the Mycenaean and Minoan kingdoms of the second millennium BCE through the democratic architecture of the Classical Greek city to the art of Alexander the Great’s empire and his successors from Macedonia to Egypt and Central Asia. The course covers both the sculptural and architectural experiments in fifth century Athens and in other Greek cities across the Mediterranean. At the same time it emphasizes the culture of curating Classical art in American Museums and alternative interpretations of the classical tradition. Course assignments will focus on working on the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago and artifacts in a touring exhibit at the Field Museum.