This course surveys painting and sculpture of the Baroque era (ca. 1580 to 1750) in Italy and Spain. Examining works of art in their social and cultural context, the course touches upon major themes including the legacy of sixteenth-century artistic giants such as Michelangelo and Raphael; the impact of religious reform on the visual arts; the notion of classicism as an artistic ideal; and the changing status of the artist in society. The course will cover a range of artists including Annibale Carracci, Caravaggio, Gianlorenzo Bernini, Artemisia Gentileschi, Diego Velázquez, Jusepe Ribera, and Peter Paul Rubens. One class meeting will take place at the Art Institute of Chicago.