This course is the first in the undergraduate two-course sequence (Arch 313/323) surveying the history of architecture from prehistory to the present. The course introduces students to developments in the history and theory of architecture and urban design from ancient times through the Renaissance. Culture, religion, politics and geography will provide context for understanding developments in built form, typology, technology, and ornament. The lectures will also address the history of architecture as a practice, while considering ways in which historical buildings and sites project a continued relevance beyond the period of their original conception and use.