This course introduces students to the literature, history, and political institutions of Greece and the ancient Near East from 3000-500 B.C.E. No prior knowledge of the subject is assumed. We will read and discuss original texts, including the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Law Code of Hammurabi, selections from the Iliad and Odyssey, and some additional early Greek poetry and philosophy. There will also be slides illustrating the art, architecture, and physical world of the ancient Near East and early Greece.