Students in this seminar will examine various aspects of material culture in early modern Europe, broadly defined. These aspects include, but are not necessarily limited to, conceptions of objecthood; historical approaches to ephemera; attitudes toward the acquisition and maintenance of material things (not just collecting); questions of utility and inutility; latent (and not-so-latent) animatism with respect to pictorial images; and the importance of revision, modification, and/or outright destruction of objects. Our goal will be to address major themes in current and recent scholarship on the cultural life of the senses in Europe and (later) the Americas from roughly 1350 to 1750.