This is a survey of seventeenth-century European art. Art opens a unique portal into belief systems, moral values, gender identity, political arrangements, and more. With these broader themes in mind we will focus on the great individuals who dominated the visual arts in Italy, France, Spain, and the Netherlands. Artists to be discussed include Caravaggio, Artemisia Gentileschi, Bernini, Poussin, El Greco, Velázquez, Rubens, Van Dyck, Vermeer, and Rembrandt. The story begins in Italy and continues with the regions of Europe most closely tied to the Italian tradition: France, Spain, and the Southern Netherlands. The semester finishes in the Dutch republic with its strikingly independent school of painting.