Material culture studies is an interdisciplinary field that employs methods from anthropology, economics, sociology, art history, and archaeology in order to examine the varied significance of objects in social life. This seminar explores some of the major approaches to the study of material culture through the context of Renaissance Europe and its global networks. We will examine how material culture illuminates changing structures of value, exchange, and circulation that defined the period. Through theoretical readings and case studies, we will investigate some of the intricate relationships between persons, things, and social practice, circa 1400-1600. Some background knowledge of Renaissance art and/or history is advisable, but not required.