Humans have been called rational animals since antiquity, but the notion that we should also develop our non-rational capacities – senses, imaginations, memories, and emotions – is equally central to Western intellectual and cultural history. We will trace this notion through the visual and material culture of early modern Europe in some of its most fascinating manifestations: memory palaces, Jesuit meditation techniques, emblem books, cabinets of curiosities, history paintings, pictorial encyclopedias, games, and more. Each week will involve hands-on study of jewels from Wellesley’s own library and museum collections, and each student will finish the semester by writing a history of an object of her choice.