This seminar will explore Spanish art in all media (including painting, sculpture, architecture, and prints) produced over the course of the long sixteenth century. It will begin with the reign of Fernando and Isabel and then trace artistic developments during the emergence and consolidation of the Spanish Habsburg transatlantic empire.

Art collections, royal portraiture, building decorative programs, cartographic imagery — all of these complementary endeavors, and others, will be investigated to help situate Spain in the wider world of Renaissance culture in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Americas.

Seminar participants will make use of the rich holdings of the Newberry Library and Chicagoland museums for individual research projects. As some course readings will be in Spanish, a reading knowledge of that language would be beneficial but is not required.