From the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries, visual forms and practices linked such disparate places as Mexico City and Naples, Manila and Lima, Cuzco and Antwerp, Quito and Madrid: all cities in the Spanish Empire. This course provides an overview of the visual strategies deployed by the Spanish Crown and the Catholic Church across these vast global geographies to consolidate political power and instill religious faith. Such regimes of visuality were reshaped by local conditions and concerns. Focusing on different cities in the Spanish Empire, this course will examine the entanglements between the global and universal ideals of empire and their local manifestations and contestations. Students will gain a broad understanding of the diversity of artistic production in the Spanish empire, exploring religious paintings and sculptures; maps used for imperial surveillance; luxury goods crafted from shimmering feathers, ceramics, ivory, and precious metals; urban design and architecture from the ports of Europe to the highland outposts of the Andes; ephemeral cityscapes for civic performance. Through an examination of such topics, this course offers an introduction to the art historical methods and theoretical concerns used to study objects within an imperial frame.