This art history course will examine European beliefs about vampires, witches, angels, demons, “monstrous races,” and other enchanted, invisible, and unseen beings between 1500-1800. By examining harrowing tales of witches’ sabbaths, moving accounts of angelic visitations, dramatic paintings of hellish demons, and travel diaries describing monstrous races, we will ask what early modern Europeans believed about humans and the inhuman, corporal and spiritual spheres, neighbors and foreigners. We will also study how written descriptions and visual representations in painting, sculpture, and print contributed to ongoing debates about these figures.

Fall 2016, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am-10:20am

Register for HIAA1105

Otherworldly and Other Worlds: Representing the Unseen in Early Modern Europe