ARTH322: Van Eyck to Bruegel: The Renaissance in Northern Europe
TTH 9:30-10:45 Professor Honig
This course treats the tradition of pictorial art in the Netherlands, from its flowering in courts and cities of the early 1400s to the cataclysmic moment of iconoclasm in 1566. We begin with the development of a complexly “realistic” aesthetic allied with symbolic content in the service of spirituality and devotion. Then we follow Netherlandish art into the Early Modern era, a turbulent period during which visual culture was challenged to respond to the rise of merchant capitalism, the encounter with new worlds, and the spiritual crisis of the Reformation. Issues will include traditions of workshop production and rise of an art market; elite vs. popular culture; artistic responses to cultural constructs of class and gender; and the rise of new genres and their social function. We will look at works by famous masters like Jan van Eyck, Hieronymus Bosch, Albrecht Dürer, and Pieter Bruegel, but also at objects created by lesser-known and anonymous makers.