We instinctively respond to objects whose proportions fall outside the “normal” range (as defined by human size). But why do big and small things inspire such evocative reactions?

This seminar will explore the art of the Ancient Near East (predominantly Mesopotamia) through the lens of scale and affect. The theoretical fields of thing theory, embodiment, object agency, and materiality will be discussed and utilized. Students will be encouraged to explore how these theories might also apply to their own fields of research.