The Art of Memory reached a peak of refinement during the Italian Renaissance. Building on a tradition of ancient practices, memory systems became powerful thought-structuring devices, suitable not only for recollection but also for creative output. Through a selection of primary sources from antiquity to early modern time, this course examines the background of the Renaissance culture of memory as well as the impact of such visually rich technique on literary production. As a case study, we will focus on the heretic philosopher and cosmologist Giordano Bruno, who conceived his imposing mnemonic system as an inner mirror of the infinite universe.

Wednesday
3:30-6:10
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