The early years of the twenty-first century have seen an overwhelming cultural interest in people who accumulate things. Hoarding is the subject of medical research, as well as documentary and narrative films, novels and memoirs, theater, painting, photography, and television episodes and series—including A&E’s ‘megahit,’ Hoarders. This seminar is guided by the questions “Why hoarding?” and “Why now?” We will address these questions by studying the contemporary hoarder within a broader literary and cultural context that encompasses fetishists, collectors, misers, rag pickers, gleaners, and other figures defined (and pathologized) by their attachments to things.