

# The Making of Europe:

## From Middle Ages to Modernity



Provisional Syllabus 2024  
Utrecht Summer School  
Jelle Lammerts van Bueren

## Contents

1. Formal Information	3
2. Course Description	4
3. Academic Program	5
4. Lecturers	7
5. Excursions	9
6. Attendance, Assessment, Grading	10
7. Summer School Information	11

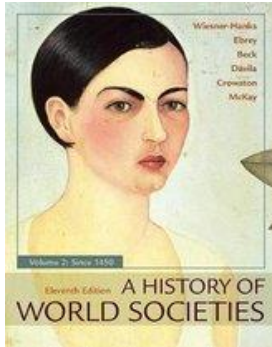
### Image Front Page

Dutch protestants raiding a Catholic church during the so-called Storm of Statues (*Beeldenstorm*) – Frans Hogenberg, 1566.

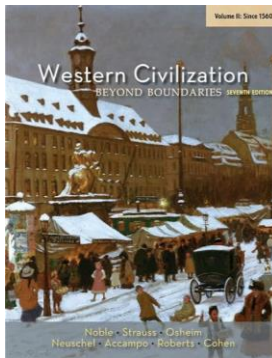
## 1. Formal Information

### Materials

Lectures and seminars will be based on segments from two main books. Additionally, the course will employ primary sources on a wide variety of topics. Please check the Summer School website and contact the course coordinator for updates.



Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks,  
A History of World Societies Since 1450.  
Macmillan, 2018.



Thomas F.X. Noble,  
Western Civilization: Beyond Boundaries.  
Cengage, 2013.

### Course Duration

July 22 – August 2, 2024.

### Credits

You will obtain 4.0 ECTS and a Certificate of Attendance after completion of the course.

### Faculty

Jelle Lammerts van Bueren, MA

Course Coordinator

[j.lammertsvanbueren@uu.nl](mailto:j.lammertsvanbueren@uu.nl)

### Contact Utrecht Summer School

Website: <http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl>

Email: [summerschool@uu.nl](mailto:summerschool@uu.nl)

Phone: +31 (0)30 253 44 00

## 2. Course Description

### Introduction

When thinking or talking about Europe, many will immediately jump to the contemporary European Union and the 20<sup>th</sup> century with all its European violence and destruction. However, to truly understand the history of this complex continent, we must go back to the centuries during which its characterizing features were formed. Only then, will we be able to understand Europe's tumultuous recent past and today.

*The Making of Europe* will actively guide you past the most important developments of early modern Europe, taking the alluring city of Utrecht as a starting point. It invites you to directly step into history and will illuminate historical European developments from the Middle Ages to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This historical journey will help course participants understand the many political, socio-economic, religious and cultural factors that came to shape modern Europe.

You will receive lectures on, read sources from, and watch documentaries on a variety of historical topics, including the Renaissance, the Reformation, European expansionism, and the political revolutions of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Additionally, in this course, students will have the opportunity to visit several historical museums in Utrecht, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the 13th century royal palace in The Hague. After these two weeks in Utrecht, students will be able to analyze and discuss the role of the Netherlands in the making of Europe and have a firm understanding of the main political, religious and cultural developments that took place in Europe in this time period. During these two weeks, course participants will be able to “experience” history.

Finally, although the course will feature many examples from Dutch history, lectures will include stories from all over Europe, to highlight both similarities as well as national/regional differences.

### Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- Distinguish the most important historical developments that characterized early modern Europe.
- Analyze historical objects in museums by historically contextualizing them.
- Recognize how Dutch history fits and contrasts with general European history in the early modern period.

### Disclaimer

Depending on factors such as the size of the travel group and opening times/availability of some offers, individual parts of the excursions might change. Please check the Summer School website and contact the course coordinator(s) for updates.

### 3. Academic Program

#### Week 1

Monday: July 22, 2024

10:00-11:00: Introduction: Welcome to the Course!  
Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren  
Location: Janskerkhof (JK) 15A, room 001

11:30-13:00: Seminar 1: Introduction and Periodization  
Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren  
Location: JK15A 001

Tuesday: July 23, 2024

10:00-12:00: Lecture 1: Out of the Middle Ages: Early Modern Europe  
Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren  
Location: JK15A 001

13:00-15:00: Seminar 2: The Renaissance  
Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren  
Location: JK15A 001

Wednesday: July 24, 2024

10:00-12:00: Lecture 2: The Reformation  
Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren  
Location: JK15A 001

**13:00-15:00: Excursion Catharijnenconvent Museum, Utrecht**

Thursday: July 25, 2024

10:00-12:00: Seminar 3: European Expansion and Slavery  
Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren  
Location: JK15A 001

13:00-15:00: Lecture 3: The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment  
Lecturer: Menno Hellinga  
Location: JK15A 001

Friday: July 26, 2024

10:00-12:00: Seminar 4: The construction of a European state system  
Lecturer: Thomas Niederer  
Location: JK15A 001

13:00-14:00: City tour Utrecht around the theme of slavery

## **Week 2**

Monday: July 29, 2024

10:00-12:00: Lecture 4: Political Revolutions

Lecturer: Devin Vartija

Location: JK15A 001

13:00-15:00: Lecture 5: Upcoming European Nationalisms

Lecturer: Frank Sterkenburgh

Location: JK15A 001

Tuesday: July 30, 2024

**Full-day Excursion to The Hague**

Wednesday: July 31, 2024

10:00-12:00: Seminar 5: Group presentations

Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren

Location: JK15A 001

13:00-15:00: Self-study for Exam (coordinator available for advice)

Lecturer: Jelle Lammerts van Bueren

Location: JK15A 001

Thursday: August 1, 2024

10:00-13:00: Final Exam

Location: JK15A 001

Friday: August 2, 2024

10:00-11:00: Final Ceremony: Presentation of Certificate and Drinks

Location: JK15A 001

#### 4. Lecturers

**Jelle Lammerts van Bueren, MA (Coordinator)** is a lecturer within the political history section of Utrecht University. His research interests are generally focused around Western European democracy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with a special interest for the cases of France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

**Menno Hellinga, MSc** is a graduate from the MSc in History and Philosophy of Science at Utrecht University. His research interests include the more technical aspects of (early) modern physics, as well as classical Latin and early modern English literature. He previously obtained a BA (honours, *cum laude*) in History at the UU.

**Thomas Niederer** is a second year History RMA student at Utrecht University. He specializes in the history of the natural sciences and their connection to nation building and colonialism. He is writing his thesis about palaeontologic collections in Dutch natural history museums and the function they serve in relation to identity formation. Thomas has recently completed a recent internship at a NWO research project, “Who did all the Work” looking at indigenous influence of Dutch colonial science in the Dutch East Indies.

**Dr. Devin Vartija** is an assistant professor of history at Utrecht University and a former post-doctoral fellow at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales. He is an intellectual historian whose main body of work focuses on the complex interplay between race and equality in Enlightenment England, France, and Switzerland.

**Dr. Frank Sterkenburgh** is an assistant professor and a historian of modern Germany at Utrecht University, specializing in the staging of political authority. He is currently working on his second single-authored monograph, which will provide a new history of Germany’s *Kanzlerdemokratie* from Konrad Adenauer to Olaf Scholz.

## 5. Excursions

During this course, we will make three excursions, on which you will witness the effects of 600 years of European history in the Dutch landscape. For all excursions, transportation (by bus) will be arranged by the Summer School. You are, however, required to arrange your own lunch. Details on where and when the bus will pick you up will follow.

### **Catharijnenconvent Museum**

Wednesday: July 24, 2024 (Afternoon)

The first excursion will bring us to the Catharijnenconvent Museum in the city center of Utrecht. This museum, housed in an old monastery, exhibits many objects from both Medieval as well as Early Modern times with a focus on religious history. Objects that can be found in the museum range from religious relics to historical paintings. Students will be able to explore the museum with a guide or in groups.

### **The Hague**

Tuesday: July 30, 2024

During the third and final (full-day) excursion, students will visit the Dutch administrative center: the city of The Hague. We will make a tour past some of the city's telling connections with Dutch (and European) history and visit the Dutch Royal Palace and the Dutch parliament. Students will also be able to explore the city on their own.



## 6. Attendance, Assessment, Grading

### Attendance

You are required to attend all lectures, seminar sessions, and excursions. Students who are absent due to factors beyond their fault (illness, accident, etc.) should submit a medical attest of this to the course coordinator (Jelle Lammerts van Bueren) as soon as possible. A compensatory assignment is expected for each absence and each uncompensated absence will result in a 10% subtraction of the final grade.

### Assessment

Your grade for this course will be based on two different assignments:

- Group presentation            40 %
- Exam                                60 %

### Group Presentation

To complete this course successfully, you will be required to give a 20-minute presentation in groups of three to four students on a historical object that you encountered during one of the excursions and that is related to the course. You will be allowed to come up with a topic of your own, as long as the topic has been cleared by the coordinator.

Your assessment will be based on the following elements:

- Quality of research
  - Historical accuracy
  - Historiographical connection
  - Connection to the course
- Presentation skills

**Deadline:** The presentations will take place during seminar 4 on July 31.

### Exam

The course ends with a final examination of all course material (lectures, seminars, and literature) on August 1 (10:00-13:00).

### Grading

Your grades will be numerical grades, following the Dutch grading system. Dutch grades range from 0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent). At Utrecht University, a 5.5 is considered the lowest passing grade. Please note that grade inflation has not affected the Dutch grading system as much as it has some American institutions. Grades of 9 and higher are rarely given, the most common grades awarded being between 6 and 8. The Utrecht University student registration system (Osiris) that will produce your transcript will round off all grades to whole numerals for 5 and lower, and half numbers for 5.5 and higher. Hence, ... 4 — 5 — 5.5 — 6 — 6.5 — 7 — 7.5, etc. On course work and examinations, however, it is customary to receive a grade that has not been rounded off. Pluses

and minuses are sometimes used, and count for one-fourth of a point, for instance: 8- = 7,75. The meaning of the final numerical grades is as follows:

9.00-10.00	Excellent
8.00-8.99	Very good
7.50-7.99	Good
7.00-7.49	Very satisfactory
6.50-6.99	Satisfactory
6.00-6.49	Sufficient
5.50-5.99	Acceptable; minimum pass
5.00-5.49	Insufficient; fail
4.00-4.99	Unsatisfactory
3.00-3.99	Very unsatisfactory
2.00-2.99	Bad
0.00-1.99	Very bad

\* Note that the conversion of grades that you have received in the Netherlands to grades at your home institution is the responsibility of your home institution, not Utrecht University. This chart should be used as an indication; no rights can be drawn from it.

\* Any case of plagiarism, including the use of text-generating AI, will be reported to the home institution and result in a course failure, meaning 1.00 as the final grade for this course.

## 7. Summer School Information

### Utrecht University Facilities

During the course, you can use several of Utrecht University's computer and printing facilities. You have received your computer login code (SOLIS ID) from the Summer School administration.

You are recommended to use one of the main computer rooms of the Faculty of Humanities in Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 (KNG 80). The computer rooms are opened from Mondays through Fridays from 08:00 to 19:00. The computer rooms are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Another option is to use the computers at the University Library (UB) Innercity (Drift 27). The library is open from Monday through Fridays from 08:00 to 18:00. It is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Again, use your login code (SOLIS ID) to log in at any of the library computers.

### Social Program

Utrecht Summer School not only offers you a fine selection of interesting courses in all kinds of disciplines, it also aims at giving the participants an unforgettable stay. Therefore, we invite all students during the months July and August to an attractive social program, including excursions, sport activities and social gatherings. The activities will provide the perfect setting for you to get to know your classmates better and to meet international students from other Summer School courses!

Information on the Summer School Social Programme can be found on the website [https://utrechtsummerschool.nl/social\\_programme](https://utrechtsummerschool.nl/social_programme).