

Dutch Culture: History & Art



Utrecht University Summer School

Day-to-day programme 17-28 July 2023

Dutch Culture: History & Art
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**Utrecht
University**

COURSE COÖRDINATOR

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COURSE SUMMARY

During this course you will be introduced to the rich history and cultural traditions developed in the Netherlands from the Middle Ages to the present day. The question of Dutch identity will be explored by placing the history of the Netherlands and Dutch art in a wider European perspective. This will then lead to exploring traditions of literacy, cosmopolitanism, tolerance, its connections to the wider world, and the challenges that were encountered during periods of war and upheaval.

This course is devoted to two specific themes: History (1) and Art (2)

Theme 1: Dutch Identity and History - We will start with several lectures that will give you insight in distinctive historical periods of Dutch history. Topics that will be discussed include: development of the Netherlands during the Middle Ages, the Dutch religious landscape and the history and culture of the 17th century, the so-called 'Golden Age'.

Theme 2: History of Art - Within the historical context of the preceding topics, you will be introduced to the cultural expressions and traditions that support the Dutch in their claim to international fame as a cultural nation. During this part of the course, lecturers will discuss early modern, modern and contemporary art in the Netherlands, touching upon famous artists such as Rembrandt, Vincent van Gogh, Mondrian and many others.

You will experience an intensive two-week programme with lectures and seminar groups during which you are expected to participate in discussions and work on assignments and group presentations. We will also undertake excursions to the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum (both in Amsterdam) in order to take a closer look at the artworks and their context.

PROGRAMME

The course consists of different teaching methods, including lectures, seminars (including museum excursions), self-study, and group work. In general, the day-to-day programme is organized so that there is a range of different, and complementary, activities on each day.

Please note that the course will be interactive, and that you will be encouraged to actively participate in all classes. This includes asking relevant questions and engaging in discussions about the literature and the lectures offered. As the programme will be clear, the course does include a group project, culminating in a final presentation, and an exam.

You will receive more information, and a finalized and more detailed schedule, on the first day of the course.

For information about the Social Program, please have a look at the Utrecht Summer School website!

ATTENDANCE and COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note that full attendance and active participation is expected in all lectures, seminar sessions, and course excursions. Students who are absent beyond their fault (illness, accident, etc.) should submit a medical certificate to their course leader as soon as possible. Make-up assignments are expected in case of multiple absences. Ten percentage points will be subtracted for all uncompensated absences. Students who fail more than two make-up assignments will be dropped from this course.

COMPULSORY READING

Participants in the course are expected to have read before the start of the intensive course the compulsory texts assigned for the lectures and the seminars. The basic textbook for the course is:

Jaap Verheul & Emmeline Besamusca (eds.), *Discovering the Dutch: On Culture and Society of the Netherlands* (Amsterdam, 2014).

This book is accessible online through the UU library platform.

ASSESSMENTS, CERTIFICATES and CREDITS

Assignment: 30%

Final exam: 70%

Credits: 4 ECTS

Participants who meet all the requirements, attend all the sessions – or can formally justify their absence, and show active participation in the discussions will be issued with an official Utrecht University Certificate of attendance on the last day of the school.

DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM

WEEK 1

Monday 17 July

Welcome

Seminar 1: *What to expect from this course? Introduction*

Lecture 1: *Dutch history and culture: a bird's eye view* Matisse Huiskens, MA

Tuesday 18 July

Lecture 2: *The Netherlands in the Middle Ages*

Prof. dr. Marco Mostert, UU, GKG - TBC

Seminar 2: Excursion to Catharijneconvent, Utrecht

with curator Christiaan MA Veldman

Wednesday 19 July

Lecture 3: *The Art of the Middle Ages in the Netherlands*

Dr Sanne Frequin, UU, GKG - TBC

Thursday 20 July

Lecture 4: *The Netherlands in the 17th century*

Prof. Dr. Maarten Prak, UU, GKG - TBC

Seminar 3: Excursion to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Friday 21 July

Lecture 5: *Art, artists, and artistic practice in the Netherlands in the 17th century*

Dr Eelco Nagelsmit, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen - TBC

Seminar 4: *Drinks and informal brainstorm for the Rijksmuseum group-assignment*

WEEK 2

Monday 24 July

Lecture 6: The Architecture of the Netherlands: The Case of Utrecht
Dr Martijn van Beek UU, GKG - TBC

Seminar 5: Excursion to the historic centre of Utrecht, with focus on architecture and public sculpture

Tuesday 25 July

Self-study and group-work: preparation for exam and presentation

Wednesday 26 July

Lecture 7: *The 1980s and 1990s in the Low Countries*
Dr. Angela Bartholomew, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - TBC

Thursday 27 July

Final Exam

Group-work: preparation of presentations

Friday 28 July

Seminar 6: Group presentations

Closing ceremony and drinks