

Dutch Culture: History & Art



Utrecht University Summer School

Day-to-day programme (preliminary)



Universiteit Utrecht

summerschool
UTRECHT

Dutch Culture: History & Art

Course Coordinator

Benjamin Hirschfeld, M.A.

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Certificates and Credits

Participants who attend all the sessions – or can formally justify their absence and actively participate in the discussions will be issued an official Utrecht University Certificate of Attendance on the last day of the course.

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. The question of Dutch identity will be explored by placing the history of the Netherlands and Dutch art in a broader European perspective. This will then lead to exploring traditions of cosmopolitanism, tolerance, its connections to the broader world, and the challenges encountered during periods of war and upheaval.

This course is devoted to two themes: Art History and Cultural History.

Theme 1: 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, Vermeer, Vincent van Gogh and many others.

Theme 2: Dutch History - We will provide several seminars and lectures that will give you insight into distinctive historical periods of Dutch history. Topics that will be discussed include the political and cultural/societal development of the Netherlands since the Middle Ages, the Dutch religious landscape and the history and culture of the 17th century, the so-called 'Golden Age', and societal changes until the late 20th century.

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 around the historic cities of Utrecht and Amsterdam and visit famous museums such as the Mauritshuis in The Hague and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam to take a closer look at the artworks and their context.

Period

22 July – 2 August 2024

Credits

4.0 ECTS + Certificate of Attendance

Contact people

Utrecht Summer School

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The Lecturers

Angela Bartholomew (Free University Amsterdam)

Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art History / Co-coordinator of MA Curating Art & Cultures, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)

Mireille Cornelis (University of Utrecht)

Independent art historian specialised in Dutch 17th- and 20th-century prints and drawings.

Rudy Jos Beerens (Dutch Institute for Art History, RKD)

Curator at the Dutch Institute for Art History, RKD), with research focusing on the socio-economic backgrounds of early modern Netherlands artists

Benjamin Hirschfeld (University of Utrecht)

Lecturer at the Department for Cultural History at the UU and PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam/Duitsland Institute Amsterdam, specialising in modern European history and social and cultural anthropology

James Kennedy (University of Utrecht)

Professor of Modern Dutch History with expertise in the Netherlands' postwar political, social, and cultural history, including transnational and comparative perspectives.

Anna Radermakers (Dutch Institute for Art History, RKD)

Head of the Collections of the Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD), The Hague

Nur 'Ain B Taha (University of Utrecht)

PhD candidate, 'The Dutch Global Age' Project (NWO-Vici) at the University of Utrecht's Department for Art History, researching the global materiality and history of Netherlandish art objects in the seventeenth century

Tim Verlaan (University of Amsterdam)

Assistant Professor in Urban History, focusing on the social, political, and cultural history of European cities between 1960-2000

Laurien van der Werff (Rijksmuseum Amsterdam)

Scientific research assistant at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam for the project 'Women of the Rijksmuseum' and the Print Room (Prentenkabinet). She studied cultural history at the University of Amsterdam and specialised in the 17th century.

Course Materials

The course will mainly focus on several relevant chapters from the book:

Jaap Verheul & Emmeline Besamusca (eds.), *Discovering the Dutch: On Culture and Society of the Netherlands* (Amsterdam, 2014) – e-book available via the Utrecht University library service: <https://utrechtuniversity.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1015885734>

Additional literature and further reading recommendations will be provided during the course.

Format

This course is designed for interaction between students and instructors. The course adopts different teaching methods: lectures and workshops, field trips, self-study, and collaborative work. This course is interactive. Thus, participants are invited to ask relevant historical questions, collaborate on assignments, and discuss the literature and the lectures. Students' participation is crucial in individual preparation (e.g., readings) and reflection, engagement in sessions' Q&As, and creating a successful basis for preparing for the written exam.

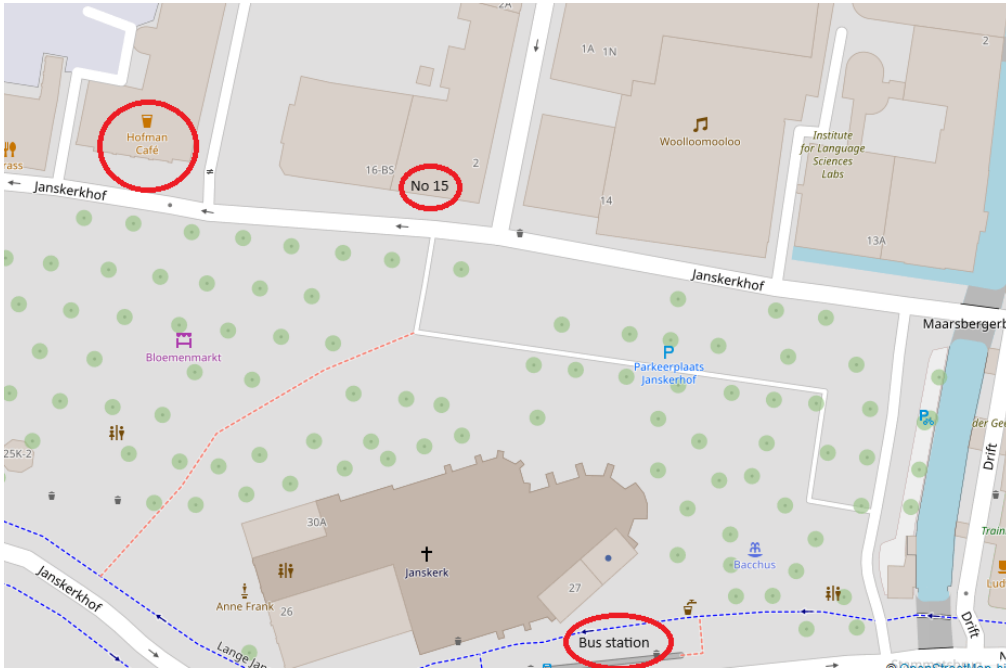
On the first day of the course, you will receive more information and a finalised, more detailed schedule. Individual times, lectures and excursions can vary or change.

Please visit the Utrecht Summer School website for information about the Social Program.

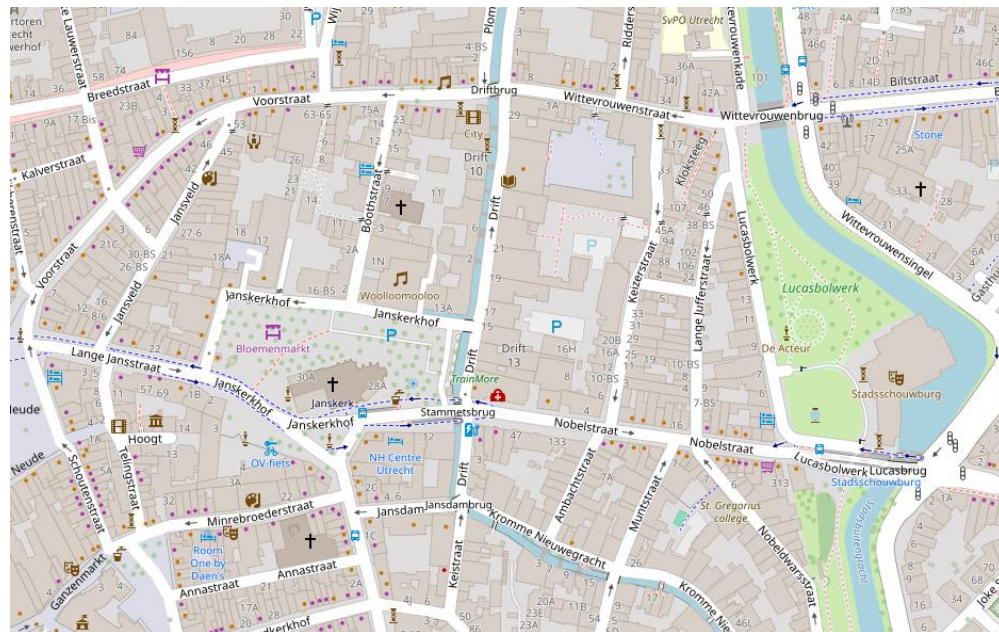
Seminar and Lecture Locations

Unless otherwise indicated, all seminars will take place at:

Utrecht University, **Janskerkhof 15, classroom 003**



Close view of the Janskerkhof 15 (classroom 3), the bus station and Café Hofman

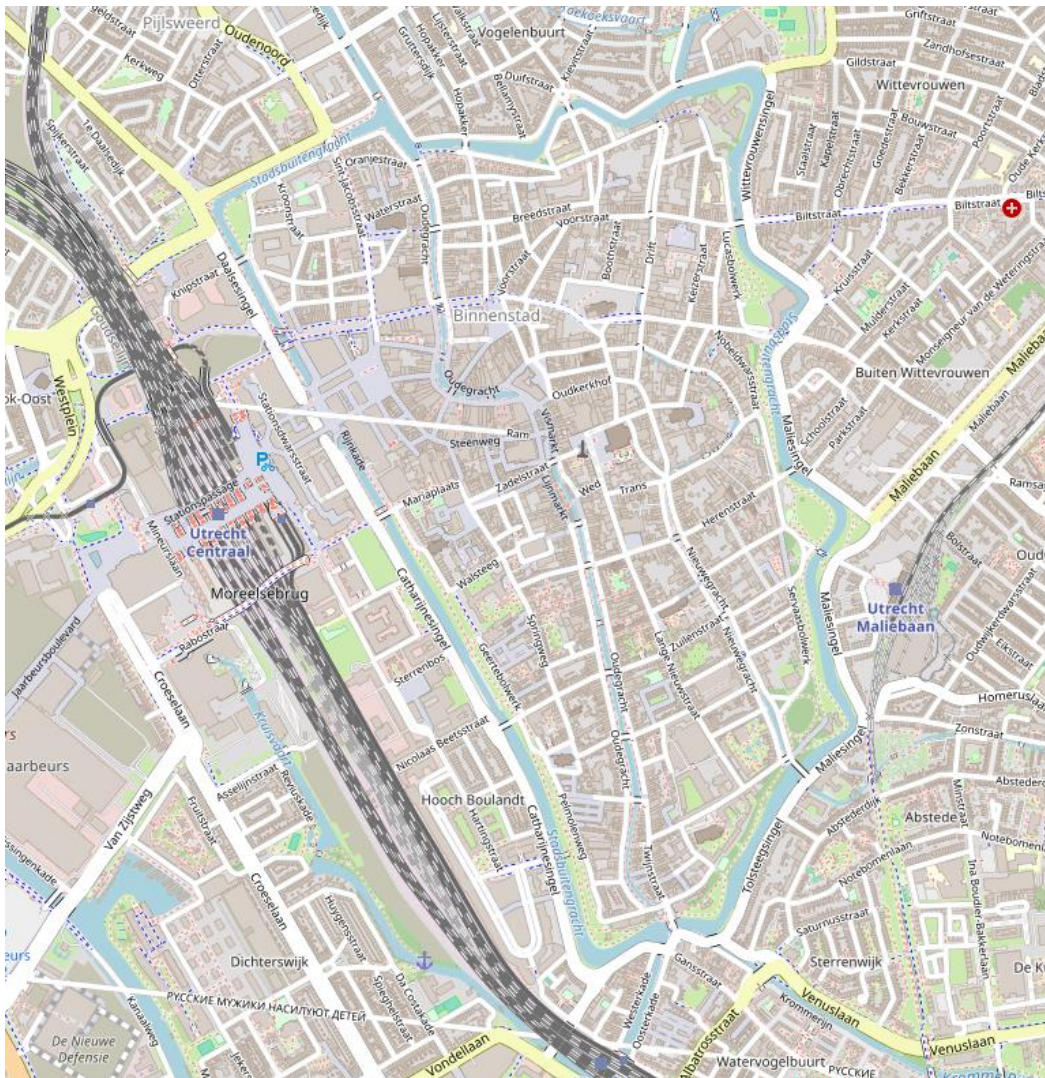


A wider view of the Janskerkhof and Drift

Utrecht

Utrecht's ancient city centre features many buildings and structures dating back to the High Middle Ages. It has been the religious centre of the Netherlands since the 8th century. Although it lost the status of prince-bishopric, it remains the main religious centre in the country. Utrecht was the most crucial city in the Netherlands until the Dutch Golden Age when Amsterdam surpassed it as the country's cultural centre and most populous city.

Utrecht is home to Utrecht University, the largest university in the Netherlands, and several other institutions of higher education. Due to its central position within the country, it is an important rail and road transport hub. It has the second-highest number of cultural events in the Netherlands after Amsterdam.



Utrecht city map. (Openstreetmap.org)

Day-to-Day Programme

WEEK 1

Monday 22 July

10:00- 11:00 Introduction to the course: Welcome and course overview (Benjamin Hirschfeld)

11:00 – 12:00: Seminar/Lecture: Introduction to Dutch history and culture from the 'Middle Ages' to the 'Golden Age' (Benjamin Hirschfeld)

14:00: Lecture: The Visual Arts in the Dutch 'Golden Age': Dutch Masters in a European Context (Mireille Cornelis)

Recommended reading: Chapters 7-10 and 13 from the book *Discovering the Dutch*, edited by Jaap Verheul and B. E. Saamucha

Further reading: Erik Spaans, *The Netherlands in the Golden Age. The growing pains of a young republic*. In: Gregory J.M. Weber (ed.): *1600-1700*. Amsterdam 2018

Tuesday 23 July

11:00: Seminar/Lecture: Dutch history since the 18th century (Benjamin Hirschfeld)

13:00: Lecture: National and regional identities in the art of the Northern and Southern Netherlands in the nineteenth century (Anna Radermakers)

Ca. 14:15: Lecture: The collections of the Dutch Institute for Art History (Rudy Jos Beerens)

Wednesday 24 July

10:30 – 12:00: 'Ground Zero: Dutch Art and Artists in the Long 1980s' (Angela Bartholomew)

13:00: Walk to the Rietveld Schröderhuis and visit the museum

Reading/ Preparation: *Discovering the Dutch* Rob Dettingmeijer: *Style and Lifestyle in Architecture* (Chapter 14)

Thursday 25 July

10:00: Lecture: 20th-century Dutch city architecture and history (Tim Verlaan)

13:30: Guided tour through Utrecht with a focus on City Architecture

Reading/ Preparation: *Discovering the Dutch* Rob Dettingmeijer: *Style and Lifestyle in Architecture* (Chapter 14)

Friday 26 July

11:00: Lecture: Foreign but Familiar: The Global Materiality of Netherlandish Art in the Early Modern Period (Nur 'Ain B Taha)

13:00: Visit and a short tour of the University of Utrecht Special Collections (to be confirmed)

****Weekend****

WEEK 2

Monday 29 July

Ca 10:00: Lecture History and Dutch culture: 19th and 20th century (James Kennedy)
(topic title and exact time to be confirmed)

**** Time to prepare the group presentations ****

Tuesday 30 July

Excursion to The Hague

Visit the Mauritshuis museum, walk through The Hague city, and – depending on the weather – a trip to the beach.

Wednesday 31 July

Excursion to Amsterdam

Ca. 9:30: Trip to Amsterdam by train, meeting at the Utrecht Central Station

Ca. 10:30: Tour of the Onze Lieve Heer op Zolder museum ('Our Dear Lord in the Attic', a 'hidden church' museum)

14:00 – 16:00: Tour of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam and the Print Room of the Rijksmuseum



The Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam

Thursday 1 August

11:00 – 12:00: Exam

Afternoon: Group Presentations

Friday 2 August

16:00: Discussion of the exam and handout of diplomas.

Ca 17:00: Drinks and farewell at Café Hofman, Janskerkhof 17