

The Making of Europe: From Middle Ages to Modernity



Draft Syllabus 2025
Utrecht Summer School
Willem Verhoeven

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

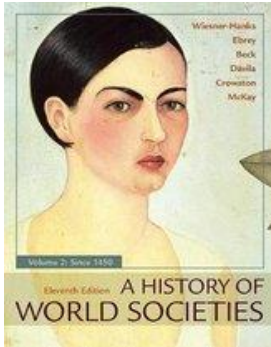
Image Front Page

The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1632.

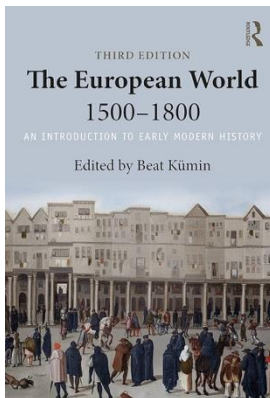
1. Formal Information

Materials

Lectures and seminars will be based on segments from two books. Additionally, the course will feature primary sources. All the additional reading material will be made available through the Microsoft Teams environment of the course.



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



Beat Kümin,
The European World.
Routledge, 2013.

Course Duration

July 21 – August 1, 2025.

Credits

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

Faculty

Dr. Willem Verhoeven

Course Coordinator

w.a.verhoeven@uu.nl

Contact Utrecht Summer School

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

Email: summerschool@uu.nl

Phone: +31 (0)30 253 44 00

2. Course Description

Introduction

When considering Europe, many will think about either its violent 20th century history, or about the peaceful period that followed the founding of the European Union. Yet to truly understand the complex history of this continent, we must go back a few centuries to the early-modern period during which its characterizing features were formed.

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 19th 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 18th and 19th centuries.

In addition, in this course, students will have the opportunity to visit several historical museums in Utrecht and Amsterdam. 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 21, 2024

10:00-11:00: Welcome to the Course!
Lecturer: Willem Verhoeven
Location: TBA

11:30-13:00: Seminar 1: Why (this period in) History? Periodization and localization
Lecturer: Willem Verhoeven
Location: TBA

Literature:

- Beat Kümin, "Approaching the early modern period," in: *The European World 1500-1800*, 3-7.
 - Humphrey Butters, "Europe in 1500," in: *The European World 1500-1800*, 13-20.
 - [OPTIONAL] Jeroen Duindam, "Early Modern Europe: Beyond the Strictures of Modernization and National Historiography," *European History Quarterly* 40 (2010): 4, 606-623.
-

Tuesday: July 22, 2024

10:00-12:00: Lecture 1: Out of the Middle Ages: Early Modern Europe
Lecturer: TBA
Location: TBA

13:00-15:00: Seminar 2: The Renaissance
Lecturer: TBA
Location: TBA

Literature:

- Humphrey Butters, "The Renaissance," in: *The European World 1500-1800*, 229-238.
 - Desiderius Erasmus, *Dulce Bellum Inexpertis* (1515). From "Against War" onwards.
-

Wednesday: July 23, 2024

10:00-12:00: Lecture 2: The Long Reformation and the Dutch Revolt
Lecturer: TBA
Location: TBA

13:00-15:00: Excursion 1: Catharijneconvent Museum, Utrecht

Literature:

- Mary Wiesner-Hanks, "European power and expansion," in: *A History of World Societies*, 500-503.
- [OPTIONAL] Herbert H. Rowen, "The Dutch Revolt: What kind of Revolution?" *Renaissance Quarterly* 43 (1990): 3, 570-590.

Thursday: July 24, 2024

10:00-12:00: Seminar 3: European Expansion and Slavery

Lecturer: TBA

Location: TBA

13:00-15:00: Lecture 3: The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

Lecturer: Willem Verhoeven

Location: TBA

Literature:

- Stefan B. Kirmse and Margarita Eva Rodríguez García (with Remco Raben), “Empire and Colonialism in Early Modern History (1500–1800)” in: *The European Experience*, 297-306.
 - Claudia Stein, “The Scientific Revolution,” in: *The European World*, 261-268.
 - Colin Jones, “Enlightenment,” in: *The European World*, 293-301.
-

Friday: July 25, 2024

10:00-12:00: Seminar 4: The construction of a European state system

Lecturer: TBA

Location: TBA

13:00-14:00: Excursion 2: Utrecht city-tour

Literature:

- Stefan B. Kirmse, Maarten Prak, and Roberto Quirós Rosado, “State-building and Nationalism in Early Modern History (ca. 1500–1800),” in: *The European Experience*, 265-274.
 - [OPTIONAL] Eric Hobsbawm, “Introduction: Inventing Traditions,” in: *The Invention of Tradition* (2000), 1-14.
-

Week 2

Monday: July 28, 2024

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

Lecturer: TBA

Location: TBA

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

Lecturer: TBA

Location: TBA

Literature:

- Mary Wiesner-Hanks, “Revolutions in the Atlantic World,” in: *A History of World Societies*, 626-630 and 634-645.
- Mary Wiesner-Hanks, “Ideologies of Change in Europe,” in: *A History of World Societies*, 692-708.

Tuesday: July 29, 2024

Excursion 3: Full-day trip to Amsterdam.

Literature: TBA

Wednesday: July 30, 2024

10:00-12:00: Seminar 5: Group presentations and final conclusions
Lecturer: Willem Verhoeven
Location: TBA

13:00-15:00: Self-study for Exam (coordinator available for advice)
Lecturer: Willem Verhoeven
Location: TBA

Thursday: July 31, 2024

10:00-13:00: Final Exam
Location: TBA

Friday: August 1, 2024

10:00-11:00: Final Ceremony: Presentation of Certificate
Location: TBA

16:00-17:00: Afscheidsborrel: Drinks!

4. Lecturers

Dr. Willem Verhoeven (course coordinator) is a lecturer within the political history section of Utrecht University. His research interests include the political and intellectual history of Western Europe in the early-modern period, with a particular focus on the philosophy and politics of the Enlightenment.

Jelle Lammerts van Bueren, MA is a lecturer/PhD-candidate 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.

Other lecturers are TBA.

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 the excursion to Amsterdam, transportation will be arranged by the Summer School. You are, however, required to arrange your own lunch.

Catharijneconvent Museum

Wednesday: July 23, 2024 (Visit: 13:00)

The first excursion will bring us to the Catharijneconvent 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 in the Netherlands. 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.

Utrecht City-Tour

Friday: July 25, 2024 (Departure 13:00)

For the second excursion, we will walk around the city of Utrecht with a guide and see where history comes to live.

Amsterdam

Tuesday: July 29, 2024 (Departure: 9:00)

During the third and final (full-day) excursion, students will visit the Dutch capital: Amsterdam. Exact program is TBA. 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 5 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. Plusses

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.