



Dutch Cultural Heritage: Art and History

20-31 July

Location: **xxxx**

Contact moments

On non-excursion days we meet at **9h30-11** for a lecture on the theme of the day. We hold a seminar in the afternoon **13h30-15h**.

Lecturer

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Abstract

This course studies the cultural heritage of the Low Countries from a critical perspective. Monumental buildings, museum collections and cultural landscapes in the Netherlands and Belgium give us a selective historical understanding of both countries. Heritage is what a social context wants to preserve in the present for enacting certain futures; also in the Netherlands and Belgium certain pasts have been preserved, and others have been deliberately forgotten. In this course, we study the mechanics and politics of heritage-making by zooming in on the Low Countries. We learn about both countries' carefully constructed historical landscapes and explore the politics and tensions behind them. Students learn and engage with a series of heritage and art collections and learn about Dutch and Belgian culture and politics and how heritage played a role in making society and citizens. Since many collections and monuments have been made in the 19th and 20th centuries students learn about the cultural history of that period as well. The course importantly also zooms in on more contemporary debates about heritage preservation: we look at the contested memory of fascism, slavery and colonialism. In the course, three excursions are planned across the Low Countries.

Structure of the course

- **Monday 20-07: Introduction**

Morning:

Lecture: key concepts in heritage studies

Afternoon:

Seminar: overview of coursework and discussion of literature

Readings:

- Sharon Macdonald, 2013. *Memorylands*, Routledge. ([Chapter 1: The European Memory Complex](#))

- **Tuesday 21-07: The history of heritage**

Morning:

lecture, the birth of heritage in the Low Countries

Afternoon: seminar, heritage in the 19th century

- Rodney Harrison, 2012. *Heritage: Critical Approaches*, Routledge, (Chapter Prehistories of World Heritage: The emergence of a concept)

- **Wednesday 22-07: the birth of the museum**

Morning: lecture, the birth of museums in the Low Countries

Afternoon: seminar, discussion of literature

- Tony Bennett, 1995. *The Birth of the Museum: History, Theory, Politics*, Routledge. (Chapter 1)

- **Thursday 23-07: analysing exhibits**

Morning: Visit Utrecht University Museum (opening at 10:00, meeting at 9:45 at the entrance). Make sure you have read the paper for the afternoon session beforehand

Afternoon: seminar, discussion of literature on heritage and museum methods.

- Stephanie Moser, 2010. The Devil is in the Detail: Museum Displays and the Creation of Knowledge. *Museum Anthropology*, 33(1), 22-32

- **Friday 24-07: Excursion Amsterdam**

Students chose 1 museum that they will study in groups of 5 and collectively deconstruct in preparation for a presentation. They can sign up on Monday and choose between 4 museums: the Resistance Museum, the Rijksmuseum, the Amsterdam Museum, and the National Maritime Museum.

Students will be accompanied from Utrecht Central Station to Amsterdam Central by train. We will start the day with a guided tour of a special exhibition about Dutch Colonialism in the Wereldmuseum. After lunch, students will explore Amsterdam on their own and visit the museums in their preselected groups. The lecturer will travel together with them in the morning; students will need to return independently.

- **Monday 27-07: Difficult heritage**

Morning: preparation of group presentations

Afternoon: Visit Kamp Amsfoort, the tour starts at 14.00. Meetup at NS station Utrecht 12:20. Students pay for own bus and train ticket (station and train can be entered by just tapping on the entry gate in the bus and train)

Discussion on literature on difficult heritage on site

- Sharon Macdonald, 2009. *Difficult Heritage*, Routledge. (Chapter 1)

- **Tuesday 29-07: excursion + colonial heritage**

Morning: Lecture on Colonial history, the Netherlands, and the decolonisation of heritage.

- Iris van Huis (2019). Contesting Cultural Heritage: Decolonizing the Tropenmuseum as an Intervention in the Dutch/European Memory Complex. In: Lähdesmäki, T., Passerini, L., Kaasik-Krogerus, S., van Huis, I. (eds) *Dissonant Heritages and Memories in Contemporary Europe*. Palgrave Studies in Cultural Heritage and Conflict. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-11464-0_8

Afternoon: Group presentations.

- **Wednesday 30-07: Natural Heritage**

Morning: Lecture on Cultrual Heritage and Climate Change

Reading: TBD

Afternoon: Visit Botanical Garden

- **Thursday 31-07: Exam + excursion**

Morning: exam

Afterdnoon: Excursion FENIX museum

- **Friday 01-08: Goodbye**

Morning: feedback exam (optional)

Coursework

- Midterm group presentation exhibition (15 minutes presentation + 10 min Q&A) – Pass/Fail
- Final exam about the key concepts and examples discussed in class

Requirements

- Knowledge and ability to produce written coursework in academic English (Level C)
- Ability to speak, discuss and converse in advanced English (Level C)
- Basic cycling skills

Disclaimer

Depending on factors such as the size of the group and the availability of certain offers, individual parts of the excursions may change. Please check the Summer School website.