AH315 HIGHLIGHTS OF DUTCH ART: FROM REMBRANDT TO MONDRIAN
IES Abroad Amsterdam
Winter 2023

DESCRIPTION:
It is not a bold statement to say that Dutch art is well-known throughout most of the world. It is not one painter or a certain artistic movement that stands out. Dutch artists from different centuries or art movements from different periods are equally admired and enjoyed by masses over the globe.

This course will therefore explore the distinctive periods in Dutch history such as the early renaissance, the productive Golden Age of the 17th Century as well as specific styles of the 19th and 20th century.

Students will have the opportunity to learn the general styles, concepts, purposes, and interpretations of Dutch Art from the Renaissance through contemporary art. The focus will be on painting, and to a lesser degree, on architecture.

The development of Dutch artistic styles relate to the economic development of the Netherlands as well as the political and social systems in place at various times. These socio-economic and political drivers will be further explored as these are important to understand the art of each period.

Dutch art is also influenced by various religious movements. Students will explore what these influences are and how certain religious symbols are represented.

Whilst the Dutch art scene was heavily dominated by men, this course will also focus on female artists throughout the ages. These artists may be less well known, their contribution to the arts is significant.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: You will be able to use your Museum card for the visits to museums.

Book: You need to buy the book Amsterdam, A Brief Life of the City by Geert Mak. ISBN: 9781860467899 (approx. €12,95). There are some copies at the IES Library. Otherwise go to Bookshop De Slegte or order online (www.bol.com).

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
Lectures, discussions, field study and student presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Participation: 10 %
- Field trip reflection: 20 %
- Presentations: 20 %
- Research essay: 25 %
- Final Exam: 25 %
Participation: Course participation is based on participation during field trips and group discussions. Students are expected to have read the set literature per session before the start of every session, and to be able to pose relevant questions for group discussions. Students are also asked to draw a picture of a Van Gogh painting of their choice after visiting the Van Gogh museum.

Grading Rubric for Student Participation

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<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Excellent participation</td>
<td>Your contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. An ability to skillfully synthesize the main ideas of the readings and raise thought-provoking questions about the applications and implications of the material is also shown. You demonstrate, through unique questions and comments, that you are capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course and with your own life experience. You make highly informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, consistently providing evidence and reasons. By respectfully allowing others to speak and stating your reactions about other classmates’ opinions, you exhibit a capability of contributing to the discussion spiral with further inquiries. The level of active involvement in the completion of the class activities is exceptional.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very good participation</td>
<td>Your contributions show that the assigned materials are read. Majority of the time you show a comprehensive understanding of the main ideas identified in course material and class discussion, although sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. You are respectful of both others’ time to speak and the ideas they offer. Additionally, you show an ability to construct over others’ contributions and respond in a positive manner in moments of disagreement. Regular involvement in the activities is observed and the quality of your contributions is solid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular participation</td>
<td>You indicate a regular reading of the bibliography but in an insubstantial manner. You attempt to build on others’ ideas but commonly provide comments that indicate lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, your contributions have little unique characteristics or are unarticulated with the discussion at hand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insufficient participation</td>
<td>Consistently, your contributions about readings display a disconnected or inactive involvement with the text. You do not participate in an informed way, and also show a lack of interest in constructing over others’ ideas. Several unjustified absences have been reported.</td>
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Mid-term - field trip reflection:
Students will write one reflection paper (2 pages per paper) on a field study trip:
  - Field study trip to the Rijksmuseum (session 7) or the Stedelijk museum (session 16)
Describe what kind of museum it is. What did you learn from the readings, if applicable, about the place visited, and what did you gain from the guiding lecturer or museum guide during the visit? What did you appreciate most about the visit, and what were to your mind the most special features of the place visited.

Presentations
Students will do two presentations in this course.
1. Students will present on a subject/artist connected to the course. Presentation will be min. 15 minutes max. 20 minutes.
2. Students will present on a building situated in Amsterdam that we visit. The presentation should not last more than 5 minutes and should cover the relevance within art history, purpose of the building & architectural information.
Artists and buildings will be allocated in week 2. Students can also come up with their own themes, if they are relevant to the course material and approved by the lecturer.

Scoring Rubric for Oral Presentations

**PRESENCE**
- body language & eye contact
- contact with the public
- poise
- physical organization

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**
- correct usage
- understandable (rhythm, intonation, accent)
- spoken loud enough to hear easily

**ORGANIZATION**
- clear objectives
- logical structure

**MASTERY OF THE SUBJECT**
- pertinence
- depth of commentary
- spoken, not read
- able to answer questions

**VISUAL AIDS**
- transparencies, slides
- audio, video, etc.

**OVERALL IMPRESSION**
- very interesting / very boring
- pleasant / unpleasant to listen to
- very good / poor communication

Research essay
Students will write a research essay (7 pages, excluding images and notes) on a Dutch artist of choice, as long as this is approved by the lecturer. The essay will consist of a short biography of the artist, the characteristics of the work, and a description and interpretation of two specific works of the artist.

Final exam
The final exam consists of a slide show and one essay question. Students will have to tell which artist has made the shown artwork, describe stylistic characteristics and put it in correct chronology. In addition, they will have to answer one essay question. This question will be based on the readings.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
By the end of the course:
- Students will be acquainted with the specific characteristics of Dutch Art;
- Students will have gained knowledge about the social economic situation of Holland in as much as it has influenced the development of the arts;
- Students will be able to analyze a painting and recognize the main styles;
- Students will be able to recognize and identify the art of the main Dutch artists, like Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Gogh, Mondriaan, Willink, Rietveld, Appel, Steen, Maria Sibylla Merian, Marleen Dumas);
- Students will have gained confidence in public speaking through their own presentation;
- Students will have gained analyzing skills through their study of many different paintings;
• Students will have gained insight in the collections of the visited museums (at least 5 museums will be visited);

**CONTENT**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| Session 1  | **Introduction to the course, its participants and lecturer.** What are participants’ background and familiarity with the arts. Familiarization with analyzing paintings. The oldest Dutch and Flemish artists like Van Eyck and Geertgen tot Sint Jans show a clear interest in one of the main characteristics of Dutch Art: texture and detail will be studied in the famous artworks (the Arnolfini Marriage, the Gent Altarpiece) made by these artists. We will compare these early Renaissance artists with the work of Giotto and Piero della Francesca to be able to see the difference between the Dutch and early Italian masters | Required reading:  
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 1-39  
| Session 2  | **Lecture and group discussion about the work of Jeroen Bosch and Breughel.** We detect that their humorous landscapes and biblical scenes reflect a new sense of pride in cities and at the same time a growing unrest about the effect of city life on its citizens. Field trip: Visit the Old Church | Required Reading:  
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 40-69 |
| Session 3 | **Dutch artists who traveled to Rome to get acquainted with Antiquities**  
Jan van Scorel was for a while in Rome, as curator of the papal collections, and brought his insight into Baroque and Renaissance Art to the Netherlands. Also Bloemaert and van Honthorst and ter Brugghen came back with a thorough knowledge of the antiquities and more as is clear studying their paintings.  
Field trip: Our Lord in the Attic. | **Required reading:**  
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 75-95  
| --- | --- | --- |
| Session 4 | **The Golden Age of Dutch Art I: Rembrandt.**  
Rembrandt’s paintings will be the subject for a lecture, his etchings will be studied at the Rembrandt House, Amsterdam.  
Field trip: Rembrandt House (I) | **Required reading:**  
- Student presentation on architect van Campen, the painter Jan Lievens or Gerard Dou. |
| Session 5 | **The Golden Age of Dutch Art II**  
How the Dutch artists reconciled the abundance of baroque art with their protestant belief in their paintings. Jan Steen and Frans Hals will be lectured about.  
Field trip: Rembrandt House (II) | **Required reading:**  
<table>
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<th>Session 6</th>
<th>The Golden Age of Dutch Art III</th>
<th>Required reading:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vermeer and artists like Nicolaes Maes, Gerard Dou and Metsu excelled in interior scenes. These scenes and the symbols used often have more than one meaning as will be explained in the lecture. Field trip: Visit Willet van Holthuysen</td>
<td>• Kemme, G. (ed) <em>Amsterdam Architecture, a guide</em>, Thoth Uitgeverij, Bussum, pp 10-28&lt;br&gt;• Mak, G. (1995) <em>Amsterdam: The brief life of a city</em>, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 96-133&lt;br&gt;• Westermann, M. (1996) <em>A Worldly Art – The Dutch republic 1585-1718</em>, Yale University Press, pages 156-181</td>
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<th>Session 7</th>
<th>A visit to the Rijksmuseum</th>
<th>Student presentations</th>
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<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Scientific paintings of Pieter Post, Albert Eckhout, and Maria Sibylla Merian</td>
<td>Required reading&lt;br&gt;Student presentations</td>
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## Session 9

**Dutch Art of the nineteenth century**

Dutch art of the 19th century shows strong influences of the French Realist and Impressionist movement as is evident in the work of Willem and his wife Sien Mesdag, and Weissenbruch.

**Required reading:**
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 190-227

- **Student presentations**
- Email a short update on your paper

## Session 10

**Vincent van Gogh** (at the Van Gogh museum)

Van Gogh reflects the changing scene in the arts as no other before him, he can be considered as one of the fathers of the expressionist movement as will be explained in the lecture.

You will need to watch a recorded lecture on Van Gogh before the start of this class.

We will meet at the van Gogh museum.

**Required reading:**
- Bazin, G. (1958) *Impressionist Paintings in the Louvre*, Thames & Hudson Ltd., pages 225-238
- Fuchs, R.H. (1985) *Dutch Art*, Oxford University Press, pages 143-175

- **Choose a painting/drawing of van Gogh to copy at home.**
### Session 11

**Dutch arts at the turn of the 20th century**

Jan Sluijters and Kees van Dongen reflect the expressionist tendencies in Paris in their vibrant, colorful paintings. In the buildings of the Amsterdam School Architects (like van der Mey) we see a similar expressionist international outlook.

You will need to watch a recorded lecture on the Amsterdamse School before the start of this class.

We will go a guided (bike) tour along the main apartment blocks, offices and school buildings of the Amsterdam School architects and we will visit het Schip museum.

**Required reading:**

- Tuchman, M. (ed) *The Spiritual in Art: Abstract Painting, 1890-1985 cat. Exhibition 1987*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago and the Haags gemeentemuseum (ISBN 0875871305) pages 89-111
- Hand in drawing from visit to Vincent van Gogh.
- Student Presentations

### Session 12

**Mondriaan and the STIJL movement**

The STIJL movement had a great impact on modern architects like Rietveld, Breuer and Gropius.

Visit Tuschinski & Rembrandtplein & possibly de Bazel (walking tour)

**Required reading:**

- Fuchs, R.H. (1985) *Dutch Art*, Oxford University Press, pages 176-190
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 228-269

- Student presentations
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session 13</th>
<th>The inter bellum period 1918-1940</th>
<th>Required reading:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This period is best reflected in the art work of Willink, Pijke Koch and Raoul Hijneckes as is explored in the lecture.</td>
<td>- Dooijes, D. <em>A history of the Dutch poster 1890- 1960</em>, Scheltema &amp; Holkema, pages 36-46</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 14</th>
<th>The impact of World War II</th>
<th>Required reading:</th>
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<td>The impact of World War II is strongly present in the works of the CoBrA artists Appel, Corneille and Constant. Their paintings, theater designs, sculptures and architectural drawings show their affinity with societal events and international politics.</td>
<td>- Escher, M.C. and J.W. Vermeulen (1989) <em>Escher on Escher; Exploring the Infinite</em>, Harry N Abrams Inc, pages 139-153</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short visit to the Grand Hotel</td>
<td>- Fuchs, R.H. (1985) <em>Dutch Art</em>, Oxford University Press, pages 190-207</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Mak, G. (1995) <em>Amsterdam: The brief life of a city</em>, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 279- 310</td>
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**Student Presentations**
| Session 15 | **Marleen Dumas+ Amsterdam as Graphic design Haven.**  
This bestselling female artist of the last decade shows a keen understanding of the concerns of our present society and makes heart rendering and at the same time shocking images in her representational art.  
The artists of the last decade use a variety of tools like felt, or pastel, or GPS data to make intricate and compelling art works. | **Required reading:**  
- **Student presentations**  
- **Turn in your research paper** |
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<tr>
<td>Session 16</td>
<td><strong>Field trip: Stedelijk Museum</strong></td>
<td><strong>Building presentations</strong></td>
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<td>Session 17</td>
<td><strong>Final exam</strong></td>
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FIELD TRIPS:
- Old Church
- Our Lord in the Attic
- Rembrandt House
- Willet van Holthuysen
- Rijksmuseum
- Van Gogh museum
- Stedelijk museum
- Het Schip
- Jewish History Museum

These field trips are subject to change

REQUIRED READINGS:
- Bazin, G. (1958) *Impressionist Paintings in the Louvre*, Thames & Hudson Ltd., pages 225-238
- Bussum, pages 72-75
- Fuchs, R.H. (1985) *Dutch Art*, Oxford University Press, pages 143-175
- Fuchs, R.H. (1985) *Dutch Art*, Oxford University Press, pages 176-190
- Fuchs, R.H. (1985) *Dutch Art*, Oxford University Press, pages 190-207
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 279-310
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 228-269
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 190-227
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 134-189
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 96-133
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 40-69
- Mak, G. (1995) *Amsterdam: The brief life of a city*, Uitgeverij Atlas, Amsterdam, pages 1-39
- Murray, P and Murray, L. (1963) *The Art of the Renaissance*, Thames and Hudson; London, pp 145-160 pages 75-95
• Tuchman, M. (ed) *The Spiritual in Art: Abstract Painting, 1890-1985 cat. Exhibition 1987*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago and the Haags gemeentemuseum (ISBN 0875871305) pages 89-111

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
Since IES Abroad Amsterdam courses are designed to take advantage of the unique contribution of the instructor, and the lecture/discussion format is regarded as the primary mode of instruction, class attendance is mandatory and will be taken for every class. In addition, students are expected to be on time for classes, course-related excursions, and tests. Some courses include mandatory trips outside of regular class hours, i.e. on weekends. Students will be made aware of the specific dates of such trips well in advance and are required to attend.

If a student misses a class without an excuse, this will lead to a deduction of their final grade of one-third of a letter grade for every additional unexcused absence (for example, A- to B+).

Excused absences are permitted only in case of:

- Health issues (including a doctor’s note);
- A recognized religious holiday traditionally observed by the particular student;
- A grave incident affecting family members;
- Conflicting academic commitments, only when communicated well in advance;

Any other absences (such as missing a flight) are unexcused.

If a student shows a pattern in (excused and unexcused) absences, students may be subject to an Academic Review including but not limited to a letter sent to their school and a probationary period or exclusion from the program.