ARH 4931
Undergraduate Seminar: The Art of the Dutch Republic and its Global Empire in the 17th Century
Fall 2013

University of Florida, College of Fine Arts, School of Art + Art History
Wednesday 11:45am-2:45pm, FAC 116
Credit Hours: 3

Course Web Site: http://lss.at.ufl.edu (e-Learning in Sakai)

Dr. Elizabeth Ross
Email: elizross@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 12:50-2:45pm
Office: Fine Arts C (FAC) 119A

Please do not email me through e-Learning. If you do use the e-Learning, be sure to check the box that copies the message to my elizross@ufl.edu address. Otherwise, there may be a delay in my receiving your email. During the work week, I sit down once per day to respond to all my email, so you should hear back from me within 24 hours. However, it may take a little longer on the weekends or if I’m traveling.

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center
Phone: (352) 392-1575 (line open 24/7)
Web: http://www.counsel.ufl.edu

University Police Department
Phone: (352) 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies

Course Description
Over the course of about a hundred years, beginning in 1566, the Netherlands underwent an astonishing transformation. It fought a successful war of independence, established a republican government, and adopted a new reformed version of Christianity, while tolerating minorities’ freedom of conscience. At the same time, it realized extraordinary prosperity by building the first modern economy, based on the global enterprise of a merchant class that dominated European trading from North America to Japan via Brazil, South Africa, Taiwan, and Indonesia. These developments accompanied a period of great artistic achievement and productivity that saw artists such as Rembrandt van Rijn and Johannes Vermeer arise from a flourishing art market and culture of painting. This course is designed in part to accompany an exhibition at the High Museum in Atlanta entitled, Girl With a Pearl Earring: Dutch Paintings from the Mauritshuis, and there will be a voluntary field trip to view it in September.

Course Objectives
Provide an introduction to significant works, personalities, and themes central to Dutch art of the 17th century, including the cultural contexts in which this art was produced and the ways these contexts affected the form and function of art objects.

Explore the theoretical and conceptual issues that arise from this history.

Develop students’ facility with a range of art historical methodologies.

Increase fluency with reading and assessing the scholarly literature of art history, both theoretical explorations and studies based on the close examination of material and historical evidence.

Heighten visual acuity and increase facility with identifying, describing, and interpreting visual images.

Strengthen students’ research skills and their ability to write about art clearly and creatively with historical rigor, methodological savvy, and proper academic form.

Strengthen students’ oral presentation skills.
Course Policies:

**Attendance and due dates.** Prompt attendance is required at all classes. Repeated unexcused absences or habitual tardiness will result in a lowering of your class participation grade. Please take a look at your calendar at the beginning of the semester to see if you have any commitments (for example, religious holidays, family obligations, or extracurricular activities) that conflict with due dates. If you do have a conflict, please see me well in advance to clear your absence or schedule an extension. Last minute extensions and incomplete grades will be granted only for serious, unforeseeable circumstances such as hospitalization or a death in the family.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

**Email.** Please check your UF email account regularly for course announcements or replies to any emails you send me. I will email you through your UF email account. If your email box is full, my emails will bounce back to me, and I will have no way to contact you. Please make sure to clean out your box to prevent this.

**Classroom demeanor.** No talking on cell phones, ringing or beeping, text messaging, Facebooking, tweeting, emailing, IMing, noisy or smelly eating, etc. during class. Class sessions may not be recorded.

**Accommodation.** I will make every attempt to accommodate students with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (DSO). The DSO will provide you with the necessary documentation, which you must then provide to me when requesting accommodation.

**Course evaluations.** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on ten criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results).

**Academic Honesty:**

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>% Equivalency</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 and above</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 to 92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87 to 89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask me (the instructor, Dr. Ross).

UF’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. During exams, personal items must be cleared from desks and chairs and placed in a bag on the floor. For information on what constitutes plagiarism, consult the UF Plagiarism Guide at http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html and “Misuse of Sources” on the course web site. If you have any questions, please ask me. An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers.

Grading Scale:
Please note: A grade of C- (or below) will not count toward major requirements.

See the following web page for information on UF policies for using these letter grades to assign grade points: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

Course Requirements
Oral Presentation #1 — 10% of final grade
Peer Review of Research Papers — 10%
Research Paper Oral Presentation — 10%
Research Paper — 30%
Class Participation — 40%

You are expected to complete the assigned readings and come to class ready to discuss them.

In addition to the assigned readings for each week listed below, you will see that most weeks also list one or two oral presentation topics intended to introduce additional material to complement the reading and enhance class discussion. The presentations should be about 10 minutes in length. Each student will be assigned a topic, with consideration of your preferences. The week before your oral presentation, some time will be set aside in class for all of us to workshop your research topic as a group. Therefore, you should begin researching your topic at least two weeks in advance of the presentation, so you can present a short progress report one week before your presentation. The intent here is to use the topics as an opportunity to develop your individual research skills, but also those of the class as a whole. You will be evaluated on your initial research, your follow up research after the group workshop, and the clarity of your final presentation.

There will be a research paper (12-15 pages) on a topic of your choosing. The first draft will be due on Wednesday, November 20. You should choose your topic in consultation with me. You should have a preliminary idea of your area of interest by Wednesday, October 9. Visit me in office hours by that date or make an appointment for a time outside my regular office hours to discuss the topic.

Your first draft of the research paper will be peer reviewed by two other students, and you will peer review the papers of two other students in turn. You will receive the papers to review on Wednesday, November 20. You should submit your reviews to the website by Wednesday, November 27.

In addition, you will present your research to the class in an oral presentation (15-20 minutes) during one of the last two class meetings on Wednesday, November 20 or December 4.

The final research paper will be due on Wednesday, December 11.

In preparation for the paper, you will read a brief text on the “Misuse of Sources” in academic writing and take an online quiz. You can find the link to the text on the desktop of the course web site, and you can access the quiz via the <Tests & Quizzes> link to the left. You should complete the quiz before class on Wednesday, October 9. You may take the quiz as many times as you need until you get all the questions right, but you must get all the questions right to pass the quiz. You must pass the quiz to pass the course.

Readings:
There is one required book for this course, which will be on reserve at the Architecture and Fine Arts Library:


Additional readings will be handed out in class or available online through ARES, the UF Libraries course reserves system at https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/.

Week 1
August 21—Introduction
No Reading

Week 2
August 28—Overview of Major Artists, Works, Genres, Themes

Week 3
September 4—Ruisdael and Landscape
PRESENTATION: Franz Post in Brazil and the View of Olinda

Week 4
September 11—Vermeer
PRESENTATION: Samuel van Hoogstraten and A Peepshow with Views of the Interior of a Dutch House
PRESENTATION: Technical Analysis (infrared reflectography, dendrochronology, x-ray, and paint sample analysis

Week 5
September 18—No Class
September 20—Field Trip (tentative)
The field trip is voluntary because of the difficult logistics involved. If you don’t come on the field trip, there will be an alternative assignment, TBA.

Week 6
September 25—Gender in Depictions of Seventeenth-Century Dutch Life
PRESENTATION: Paintings with letters and letter writing (Gabriel Metsu’s Man Writing a Letter and Woman Reading a Letter and Jan Steen’s)
PRESENTATION: Judith Leyster and her Self-Portrait

Week 7
October 2—Gender, Myth, and Violence
PRESENTATION: Rembrandt’s Washington and Minneapolis Lucretias

Week 8
October 9—Still Life and Global Trade
**CHOOSE A RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC BY THIS DAY.**
**MISUSE OF SOURCES QUIZ DUE**
PRESENTATION: The VOC’s history and trade network
PRESENTATION: Japanese and Chinese visual reception of the Dutch

Week 9
October 16—Interiors and their Arts
PRESENTATION: The dollhouses of Petronella Oortman and her contemporaries ANGELIK

Week 10
October 23—Dutch New York
PRESENTATION: Women of the VOC and *Family Portrait of Pieter Cnoll* (with his wife Cornelia van Nieuwenrode)
PRESENTATION: Russell Short’s *The Island at the Center of the World* and its critics

**Week 11**
October 30—The Subject of Style

PRESENTATION: Frans Hals and *The Laughing Cavalier*
PRESENTATION: The *Rembrandt Research Project* and the problems of attribution

**Week 13**
November 6—Rembrandt’s Self-Portraits

**Week 12**
November 13—The Historiography of Dutch Art

**Week 14**
November 20—RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
**FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

Peer Reviews Assigned

**Week 15**
November 27—No Class (Thanksgiving)
**PEER REVIEWS DUE**

**Week 16**
December 4—RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday, December 11
FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE