

**DEPARTMENT OF  
ART HISTORY &  
ART CONSERVATION**

Fall Term 2023

**ARTH 446 / 3.0  
Topics in Northern Renaissance  
and Baroque Art:  
*Exploring the Dutch "Golden Age"***



Jan Steen, *The Burgher of Delft and His Daughter*, 1655

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

A detailed study of one artist or theme in the visual culture of northern Europe, primarily The Netherlands and/or Germany. Topics may focus on the Renaissance and/or Baroque era (ca. 1400- 1750).

*Prerequisites:* Level 4, registration in an ARTH Major or Medial plan, GPA 1.9, and 24 units in art history OR permission of instructor. Some previous study of European art recommended.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Artists such as Rembrandt van Rijn, Jan Steen, Frans Hals, and Johannes Vermeer lived in the Netherlands during a period that has often been called the Dutch Golden Age. Global commerce and exploration brought wealth and exotic goods to Dutch markets, spurring advances in science, technology, and business while stimulating curiosity about nature and foreign cultures. Artists developed an unprecedented range of products for a newly prosperous clientele of middle-class consumers. Yet, historians increasingly recognize that this era was not "golden" for everyone. Global trade depended on the exploitation of Black and Indigenous populations, and factors such as social status, gender, and religious faith impacted life experience for all. This course takes an intersectional approach to the study of visual culture in 17th-century Holland by exploring how social conditions impacted the lives of artists and the work they produced. Depending on interest, attention will be given to topics such as the achievements of women artists; art and the study of nature; visual culture and colonialism; and depictions of everyday life.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

A detailed syllabus will be posted within the first two weeks of class. Assignments will include readings, discussion forums, and an individual research project presented as an oral report and a final paper. Most resources will be posted on OnQ or made available electronically, but research in Stauffer Library will also be required. As with all seminars, regular attendance, active participation in discussion, and keeping up with reading assignments are crucial to success and will count toward the final course grade.