

ARTH 354 Winter 2023

THE AGE OF REMBRANDT

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie S. Dickey
Professor of Art History
Bader Chair in Northern Baroque Art
Contact: stephanie.dickey@queensu.ca



COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed study of paintings produced in the Netherlands, ca. 1580-1700. Developments in style and the growth of subject types such as genre, portraiture, landscape, and still life are examined in the cultural context of life in the Dutch Republic, with particular attention to the achievements of artists such as Rembrandt, Hals, and Vermeer.

PREREQUISITE: Level 3 or above. It is recommended that students have taken ARTH 120 and ARTH 253.

This course explores painting, drawing, printmaking and related arts in the seventeenth-century Netherlands. During this time, the Dutch Republic became a center of world trade, religious diversity, and innovation in government, business, and science. A thriving art market developed to serve a prosperous community of middle class consumers -- a new type of art market that prompted artists in Amsterdam, Leiden, Haarlem, Utrecht, and other Dutch cities to craft their own distinctive responses to the international movement known as the Baroque. Artistic specialties such as historical narrative, portraiture, genre, landscape, and still life flourished in new and creative ways. Global trade and colonial exploration brought wealth for investors and entrepreneurs, but these developments came at the expense of enslavement and exploitation of Black and indigenous populations in Africa and the Americas. Our discussions will set Dutch art in the context of early modern colonialism and will consider how Dutch artists responded to social concerns such as race, class, economic inequality, and gender. We will focus on the achievements of artists such as Frans Hals, Johannes Vermeer, Jan Steen, and Jacob van Ruisdael, with particular attention to the art and life of Rembrandt van Rijn, whose expressive, experimental approach to painting, drawing, and printmaking continues to inspire artists today.

Class activities will include lectures, discussions, reading, research, writing, and a visit to the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.

Students are expected to have some familiarity with early modern European art. If you have not completed ARTH 120 and/or ARTH 253, please review the relevant chapters in a basic text such as *Janson's History of Art* or consult Prof. Dickey for suggested background reading before or at the beginning of term.