Globalization
Dutch Visual and Material Culture in a Global World

Prof. Angela Vanhaelen
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Course Description
Seventeenth-century Dutch art has usually been characterized in terms of a distinctive national style. The nineteenth-century socialist art critic Théophile Thoré-Bürger coined a slogan that succinctly captures this idea: “A société nouvelle, art nouveau”—“A new art for a new society.” Art and cultural historians have recently begun to explore Dutch visual and material culture in its global context, however, and we are beginning to see that much of the visual culture of the period was created in complicated processes of cross-cultural exchange that spanned the globe. In this seminar we will read and discuss much of this recent scholarship, with the aim of redefining some familiar art historical concepts like national identity, style history, and the bounded work of art.

Course Requirements:
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussion leader (15% x 2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10% (in class, Oct. 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation of research topic</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written research paper (due Dec. 6)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Readings: The weekly readings have been compiled in a course pack, which is for sale at the university bookstore.

Participation and Reading Notes
Attendance at every class is mandatory. If you have to miss a class, please notify me as soon as you can. Oral participation in every class is expected of everyone. Bring notes and points for discussion for each reading to every class.

Class Discussion Leader
Every week, a small group of 3-4 students will present the readings and lead class discussion. It will be useful to prepare a brief introduction (not a full summary) to situate each reading and its author. Bring questions, show images, and raise key issues in order to facilitate a lively class discussion. Please hand in your presentation notes. You must do 2 of these presentations in order to pass the course.

Paper Proposal
Each student will orally present a brief (5-10 minute) paper proposal on Oct. 22nd. A written proposal is also due on this date. It will consist of three parts: a short paragraph describing the main objects of analysis and the questions that they raise; a point-form outline of strategies that you will use to address the main research questions, and a bibliography of at least ten books and/or articles.

Research Presentation and Paper
Each student will give a 20-minute presentation of her/his research topic to the class. The class will respond with questions and discussion of the presentation. The research presentation must be accompanied by a written outline of the paper and a bibliography.
Final papers are due on **December 6.** The paper should be 10-12 pages in length and formatted according to *The Chicago Manual of Style.* You must write the paper and do the oral presentation to pass the course. Late papers will be graded down 5% per day. Extensions will only be granted if written medical documentation is provided. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

**Readings and Discussion Topics**

**Week 1, Wednesday Sept. 1   Introduction**

Aims and issues of the course. Course requirements and criteria.

**Week 2, Sept 8   How ‘Dutch’ is Dutch art?**


**Week 3, Sept 15   Ethnographies**


**Week 4, Sept 22   Geographies**


“Preface: Cultural Geography in an Age of Encounter” (pp. xvii-xxviii); in ch.1 “The Dutch Discovery of America” pp.1-5, and section VIII (pp. 54-67); in ch.2 “Revolutionary Geography” section VI (pp. 111-122) in ch.5 “Tyranny Abroad” section IV (pp. 260-275), and Epilogue pp. (pp. 311-320).


Recommended:


**Week 5, Sept 29   Presentations, Representations and Incorporations**


Recommended:

Week 6, Oct. 6 Between Worlds: Migration and Metamorphosis

*Short research presentations of paper proposals

Week 7, Oct. 13 Material Culture and the Social Lives of Things


Julie Berger Hochstrasser, “Commodities of the East India Company” in Still Life and Trade in the Dutch Golden Age (Yale University Press, 2007), pp. 94-157

Week 8, Oct. 20 The Fetish and Value


Week 9, Oct. 27 Possession, Desire, Agency


Recommended:

Week 10, Nov. 3 Global Gardening and Colonial Botany


**Weeks 11, 12, 13 (Nov. 10, 17, 24)**

Student research presentations