

DTCH/GERM 0020-401

[CRN 30343]

**Amsterdam at 750: Exploring Culture, Society,
and Policy in the Dutch Capital**

SPRING 2025

Times : TR 1:45-3:14pm Room: DRLB 2C8
Instructor : Rob Naborn Office: 437 Williams Hall
Office hours : by appointment Phone: 215-898-7332
E-mail : naborn@sas.upenn.edu (main office) – only to leave messages

(Tentative) Weekly Schedule

Week 1 January 16 Introduction

1. Introduction
2. Read Nederland in cijfers 2021; Happiest Countries in the World 2024
3. Check out Hieronymous Bosch' *The Garden of Earthly Delights*

Week 2 January 21-23 History Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1275-present

1. Read and study the *Prologue of Geert Mak's Amsterdam and chapters 6 and 9 of Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City*
2. Reflection questions 1
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Check out *Map of the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands; Map of Amsterdam*

Week 3 January 28-30 History on the Global Front, 1500-present

1. Read and study *The Economic Historiography of the Dutch Colonial Empire; New Netherland*
2. Reflection questions 2
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Check out Willem van de Velde the Younger's *Sea Battle of the Anglo-Dutch Wars*

Week 4 February 4-6 Religion

1. Read and study *Violent Dreams [...] and Atheism in Early Dutch Enlightenment*
2. Reflection questions 3
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Check out Vincent van Gogh's *Congregation Leaving the Reformed Church in Nuenen*

Week 5 February 11-13 Education

1. Read and study *Education in the Netherlands and the Dutch Education System*
2. Essay #1 (due Feb 19)
3. Quiz #1 (due: Feb 20)
4. Check out Jan Steen's *A School for Boys and Girls*

Week 6 February 18-20 Politics

1. Read and study *The Dutch Political System in a Nutshell and Global Eros in Amsterdam: Religion, Sex, Politics*

2. Reflection questions 4
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Check out Pieter Van der Borcht the Elder's *The Difficulty of Ruling over a Diverse Nation*

Week 7 February 25-27 Policies: Drugs, Housing, Immigration

1. Read and study *Amsterdam, City of Sirens- On Hafid Bouazza's Short Story 'Apolline'*.
2. Reflection questions 5
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Midterm Self Evaluation [due March 17]
5. Check out Johannes Vermeer's *The Concert*

Week 8 March 4-6 Money/Stock Market

1. Read and study Chapter 1 of *Pioneers of Capitalism* and Chapter 1 of *How a Ledger Became a Central Bank: A Monetary History of the Bank of Amsterdam* before Tuesday March 4's class.
2. Reflection questions 6
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. MT Self Evaluation (due March 25)
5. Check out Emanuel de Witte's *Courtyard of the Exchange in Amsterdam*

Week 9 March 18-20 Healthcare

1. Read and study Chapter 7 of *Which Country Has the Best Healthcare?*
2. Reflection questions 7
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Quiz #2 (due March 27)
5. MT Self Evaluation (due March 25)
6. Check out Rembrandt's *Anatomy Lesson*

Week 10 March 25-27 Bicycle Culture

1. Read and study *Cycling in the Netherlands*.
2. MT Self Evaluation (due March 25)
3. Quiz #2 (due March 27)
4. Check out Pieter Brueghel the Elder's *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*

Week 11 April 1-3 Infrastructure/(Public) Transportation

1. Read and study *Infrastructure in the Netherlands*
2. Check out Jan van de Heyden's *View Down a Dutch Canal*

Week 12 April 8-10 Environment/Water Management

1. Read and study the material in Module 13.
2. Check out Van Everdingen's *View of Haarlem from the Noorder Buiten Spaarne*.

Week 13 April 15-17 Sport

1. Read and study *The Tea Lord Cyclist* and *Looking for Action*

2. Reflection questions 8
3. Responses to replies (in-class discussion)
4. Check out Avercamp's *Winter Landscape with Skaters*
- 5.

Week 14 April 22-24 Art

1. Read and study *The Plague* and other material in Week 5
2. Read and annotate article about Covid-19
3. Test #3 (due April 24)
4. Check out Willem van Haecht's *Cornelis van der Geest's Kunstkamer in Antwerp during the visit of the Archdukes Albrecht and Isabella in 1615*

Week 15 April 29 Conclusion

1. Read and study *History Textbooks as Discursive Mediators*
2. Final essay (due May 6)
3. Check out Mondrian's *Victory Boogie Woogie*

The Final essay is due (via Canvas): **(Tuesday,) May 6, 10:00am**

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance and participation in group discussions are mandatory: students are expected to come to class prepared, and to take part in the discussions. Posting responses to (the 8) reflection questions [32% of the final grade], responses to (the 8) replies [16% of the final grade], participation in group discussions and activities are requirements of this course. A significant number of absences, chronic lateness or disruptions, or a frequent lack of familiarity with the day's readings will lower a student's grade.

No more than 4 unexcused absences are permitted without loss of grade points and risk of failure. You will lose half a letter grade from your final grade for every unexcused absence (so an A turns into a B after two missed sessions, etc.) An unexcused late arrival of more than 10 minutes counts as an absence. Inattentiveness in class (such as checking your cell phone, working on your laptop) counts as an absence, too. Late papers and other assignments will be penalized 5 points for each day late. A paper handed in more than 1 week late will be marked "F."

2. There will be 3 quizzes, based on the readings and discussions, each of which counts for 8% of the final grade.
3. First essay: This essay, an individual assignment, is worth 10% of the final grade.
4. Final essay: This essay, an individual assignment, is worth 15% of the final grade.
5. A Midterm Self-Assessment Survey will provide the remaining 3 points.

Other notes and policies

- Please arrive in class on time and stay through the duration of class.
- If you wish to contact me privately, please do so via e-mail. If need be, we can set up a Zoom meeting. I will be available a half hour before class in 437 Williams Hall or in DRLB 2C8 if the room is available. Hannah Nieuwveld, your Learning Assistant, will publish her office hours soon.

- Please submit your essays in Canvas, allowing for timely feedback. I will report cases of plagiarism, which include but are not limited to the use of ChatGPT and similar devices, directly to the University. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, another person's assistance. Normally, all work done for courses —papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations—is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work.
- Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom.

Preparation Time

Students can expect about 6-10 hours of preparation (reading, studying, and assignments) per week.

Recordings in Canvas

Recordings that reveal any student information, including video, audio, or chat participation, or participant information that would identify a student can only be shared with the class in which the student is a participant and only in a format (i.e., on Canvas) that restricts the ability to view the recording to students in this same class. You may not share recordings that reveal any student's information with other classes, be they future or other current class sections, nor can you share these recordings outside the academic context as it is a FERPA violation.