COURSE DETAIL

GLOBAL VISIONS IN ART AND ART HISTORY
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University
Program(s) Utrecht University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Art History
UCEAP Course Number 120
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title GLOBAL VISIONS IN ART AND ART HISTORY
UCEAP Transcript Title GLOBAL VISION ART
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course explores the histories of global connectedness in art and architecture from different regions in historical perspective, taking into consideration commonalities as well as the aesthetics of difference. The course starts with Europe at the end of the fifteenth century, when new maritime routes created the conditions for a truly globalized world. Artworks moved across cultural zones and into new contexts, resulting in innovative materials, styles, and themes. They also became agents of cultural interaction, shaping encounters and related cultures of knowledge and consumption. In this period, furthermore, the groundwork was laid for the different European 'empires' that were characterized by imperialist and extractivist attitudes towards regions beyond Europe. As we move from the Early Modern period (c. 1400-1800) into the Modern (from c. 1800 onward), the course critically evaluates how artistic ‘encounters’ were often not of a peaceful nature but were shaped by the power imbalance of colonialism and slavery. The course considers how the rise of the discipline of Western art history, as rooted in European texts and institutions, coincided with sharply increasing imperialism as we focus on the concepts of colonialism and orientalism and their role in transnational interactions along with their afterlives. Finally, the course considers the interrelations between contemporary art and globalization. On the one hand, the contemporary period presents a re-thinking of art history, challenging Eurocentrism by expanding its potential scope to include different forms of artistic production from various geographies around the world. Does global art merely imply broadening the field of case studies, or does art history need to question and address its deep-rooted disciplinary assumptions against the currents of modernity and coloniality? What challenges, then, does the contemporary period present for the discipline of art history? How can art history contribute to the search for terms and categories that bridge different cultures, geographies, and histories? During this course, explore key texts and artworks in relation to the rich collections and galleries of the Netherlands and beyond that testify to this history of intensive global exchange.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number
KU2V18001

Host Institution Course Title
GLOBAL VISIONS IN ART AND ART HISTORY

Host Institution Course Details
https://osiris-student.uu.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/cursus

Host Institution Campus
Utrecht University

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
History and Art History

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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