

COURSE DETAIL

GENRE IN THE AGE OF VERMEER

Country

Ireland

Host Institution

University College Dublin

Program(s)

University College Dublin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Art History

UCEAP Course Number

129

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

GENRE IN THE AGE OF VERMEER

UCEAP Transcript Title

GENRE/VERMEER

UCEAP Quarter Units

10.00

UCEAP Semester Units

6.70

Course Description

Johannes Vermeer has become a pivotal figure in the Western European art tradition. This is largely due to the hushed solitude and enigmatic themes of his paintings, which seem to give a glimpse of social practices and material culture in the Dutch "Golden Age". This course interrogates some of our preconceptions of Vermeer and his work and to situate him fully within the branch of painting that became his specialty - genre art. The course traces the evolution of genre imagery in Dutch art, from its roots in 15th- and 16th-century printmaking, and the peasant caricatures of Pieter Bruegel, to its apogee in the refined interior spaces of Vermeer and contemporaries such as Gerard ter Borch, and Gabriel Metsu. Lectures focus on key practitioners, groups of related artists such as the Leiden "fine painters" and the Utrecht Caravaggisti, as well as socio-economic and contextual themes. The course also explores contemporary reception and interpretation, the role of the art market in the production of paintings, and the extent to which these engaging, quotidian images are reflective of actual domestic practices in the Dutch Republic of the 17th century. The course makes extensive use of the National Gallery of Ireland's exemplary collection of Netherlandish art.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

AH30630

Host Institution Course Title

GENRE IN THE AGE OF VERMEER

Host Institution Course Details

https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=MODULE&MODULE=AH30630

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Art History & Cultural Policy

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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