CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: A detailed study of painting and related arts 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.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the visual culture of the Netherlands (Holland) in the seventeenth century, the period known as the ‘golden age’ of Dutch visual culture, in which artists in Amsterdam, Haarlem, Utrecht, and other Dutch cities crafted their own distinctive responses to the international movement known as the Baroque. Developments in style and subject matter are examined within the historical context of the Dutch Republic and its unique sociocultural environment: in the seventeenth century, the Netherlands was a center of world trade, religious toleration, and innovations in government, business, and science as well as the arts. This context forms the backdrop for our study of major artists such as Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, Johannes Vermeer, Jan Steen, and Jacob van Ruisdael. Special attention will be devoted to the art of Rembrandt and painters in his circle, since works by many of these artists can be studied first hand in the Bader Collection at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available during the first class. The course will be part lecture and part discussion. Attendance is expected and will count toward your final grade. There will be a minimum of two written assignments and two tests.