DEPARTMENT OF
ART HISTORY & ART
CONSERVATION

Fall Term 2018
ARTH 401 / 3.0
Studies in Iconography.
Telling Stories: History, Myth, 
And Genre in the Age of 
Rembrandt and Vermeer

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephanie S. Dickey
Bader Chair in Northern Baroque
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: ONT 210
OFFICE: Ontario Hall 318B
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OFFICE HOURS: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
The study of a selected theme within the subject matter of Western art, concentrating on its changing modes of representation in response to historical and artistic circumstances.

Prerequisites: Fourth-year standing in ARTH major, minor or medial. This course is especially recommended for students who have taken ARTH 354 Age of Rembrandt or another course in the arts of early modern Europe.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The two most renowned artists of the Dutch Golden Age, Rembrandt van Rijn and Johannes Vermeer, chose very different creative paths. Or did they? Rembrandt is known for painting and etching subjects from Biblical history and classical myth, while Vermeer specialized in representations of modern life, the category known today as genre painting. What links these iconographic categories, and what skills did Rembrandt, Vermeer, and their contemporaries need in order to master them? This course explores history and genre as two sides of the same coin: narrative painting in which artists become storytellers whose imaginative compositions express emotional and moral dilemmas that speak to the core of human experience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. Class meetings will emphasize discussion and may also feature written responses, group projects, and oral presentations. Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is expected and will count toward the final grade. Assignments will include weekly readings, oral presentations, and a research paper.