

Religious Rembrandt
RA 4942 / Fall 2006
Syllabus

Prof. Mia M. Mochizuki

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Rembrandt van Rijn, *Moses with the Tables of the Law*, 1659, o/c, Berlin, Gemäldegalerie.

Capitalizing on the recent outpouring of critical attention to Rembrandt on the fourth centennial of his birth, this seminar will reconsider the range of Rembrandt's religious paintings and graphic work in the context of the heterogeneous religious environment of 17th century Amsterdam, using his work as a way to explore the challenges for religious painting in the first century after iconoclasm and reformation.

Objectives

1. To acquire knowledge of the corpus of Rembrandt's religious paintings.
2. To understand the inculturation of the religious image.
3. To assess the impact of a multi-confessional society on ecumenical dialogue.

Requirements

Presentation (15 min.) and written critique (3 pp.) of a reading	30%
Research topic presentation (5-10 min.) with annotated bibliography (10/17, 11/3)	30%
Final research paper (15-20 pp.) (12/5 IN CLASS)	40%

- NO paper extensions or incompletes

Required Reading

Books available for purchase at the GTU Bookstore, Amazon.com or Bookfinder.com:

R. Po-Chia Hsia and H.F.K. van Nierop, eds, *Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

H.J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of Prodigal Son. A Story of Homecoming*, New York: Doubleday, 1992.

All other books can be found at GTU Hewlett Library Reserve, UCB or UCB Art History and Classics Library (Doe 308).

Assigned readings can be found on the *BLACKBOARD* course website.

The Blackboard Course Website (<http://blackboard.gtu.edu/>)

Schedule

September 5 *Rembrandt at 400*
Introduction
Bibliography
Looking and Reading Handout
Selection of reading for presentation
Students register for Artstor (www.artstor.org)

Background Reading:

BLACKBOARD: M. Mochizuki, *Iconoclasm and the Image*, "2. Iconoclasm."
A.J. Adams, ed., *Rembrandt's Bathsheba Reading King David's Letter*,
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

September 12 *Rembrandt and the Bible*

Look up Rembrandt images on Artstor

Select one Rembrandt painting to discuss in terms of the reading

BLACKBOARD: Selections from C. Tümpel, *Rembrandt* (1993), pp.148-71, 242-59, 286-97, 338-59.

BLACKBOARD: V. Manuth, "Denomination and Iconography: The Choice of Subject Matter in the Biblical Painting of the Rembrandt Circle." *Simiolus* 22 (1993-94): 235-52.

BLACKBOARD: A. Golahny, *Rembrandt's Reading. The Artist's Bookshelf of Ancient Poetry and History*, "5. Stimmer's Josephus," pp.164-79.

Background Reading:

R. Po-Chia Hsia and H.F.K. van Nierop, eds, *Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age*, Chapter 4, pp.53-71.

September 19 *Rembrandt and the Catholic Tradition*

BLACKBOARD: C. Tümpel, *Rembrandt* (1993), "Catholic Clients," pp.128-39.

BLACKBOARD: C. Tümpel, "Religious History Painting," *Gods, Saints & Heroes. Dutch Painting the Age of Rembrandt*, pp.44-54.

BLACKBOARD: G. Schwartz, *Rembrandt. His Life, His Paintings*, "17. The Passion," pp.106-18.

BLACKBOARD: H.J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of Prodigal Son. A Story of Homecoming*, excerpts, pp.1-58, 134-39.

Background Reading:

R. Po-Chia Hsia and H.F.K. van Nierop, eds, *Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age*, Chapters 6-7, pp.87-111.

Y. Congar, *Tradition and traditions*.

September 26 *Rembrandt and the Dutch Reformed Community*

BLACKBOARD: C. Tümpel, *Rembrandt* (1993), "Reformed Church Clients" and "Portraits of Remonstrants," pp.100-17, 124-27.

BLACKBOARD: W.A. Visser 't Hooft, *Rembrandt and the Gospel*, excerpts, pp.18-41, 55-59.

BLACKBOARD: W.H. Halewood, *Six Subjects of Reformation Art: A Preface to Rembrandt*, Chapters 4 and 8, pp.50-63, 122-36.

BLACKBOARD: M.D. Carroll, "Rembrandt as Meditational Printmaker," *Art Bulletin* 63 (1981): 585-610.

BLACKBOARD: D. Smith, "Towards a Protestant Aesthetics: Rembrandt's 1655 Sacrifice of Isaac," *Art History* 8 (1985): 290-302.

(CONTINUED...)

Background Reading:

- R. Po-Chia Hsia and H.F.K. van Nierop, eds, *Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age*, Chapter 11, pp.159-75.
A.Th. van Deursen, *Plain Lives in a Golden Age. Popular Culture, Religion and Society in Seventeenth-century Holland*.
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October 3 **Rembrandt and the Jewish Community**

Research paper guidelines

Sign up for meetings

BLACKBOARD: C. Tümpel, *Rembrandt* (1993), "Rembrandt and Judaism," pp.140-47.

BLACKBOARD: S. Perlove, "An Irenic Vision of Utopia: Rembrandt's *Triumph of Mordecai* and the New Jerusalem," *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte* 56 (1993): 38-60.

BLACKBOARD: M. Zell, *Reframing Rembrandt: Jews and the Christian Image in Seventeenth-century Amsterdam*, "3. Rembrandt's Encounter with Menasseh ben Israel," pp.58-98.

BLACKBOARD: S. Nadler, *Rembrandt's Jews*, "3. The Unhappy Rabbi," pp.104-43+.

Background Reading:

- R. Po-Chia Hsia and H.F.K. van Nierop, eds, *Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age*, Chapters 9-10, pp.132-58.
D.M. Swetschinski, *Reluctant Cosmopolitans. The Portuguese Jews of Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam*.
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October 10 **Rembrandt and the Mennonite Community**

REQUIRED Individual meetings with Prof. Mochizuki

BLACKBOARD: C. Tümpel, *Rembrandt* (1993), "The Amsterdam Mennonites and Rembrandt," pp.118-23.

BLACKBOARD: J.L. Koerner, "Rembrandt and the Epiphany of the Face," *Res* 12 (Autumn 1986): 5-32.

BLACKBOARD: S.S. Dickey, *Rembrandt. Portraits in Print*, "2. Burning with Zeal for God," pp.30-65+.

BLACKBOARD: V. Manuth, "Rembrandt's Apostles: Pillars of Faith and Witnesses of the Word," in *Rembrandt's Late Religious Portraits*, exhib. cat. Washington D.C. (National Gallery of Art) 2005, pp.38-55.

BLACKBOARD: Chapman, H. Perry, *Rembrandt's Self-Portraits: A Study in Seventeenth-century Identity*, "5. Biblical Roles," pp.105-27.

Background Reading:

- R. Po-Chia Hsia and H.F.K. van Nierop, eds, *Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age*, Chapter 8, pp.112-31.
A. Hamilton, S. Voolstra and P. Visser, *From Martyr to Muppy (Mennonite Urban Professionals)*.
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October 17 **The Prodigal Son**

Brief presentation of paper topic to class

BLACKBOARD: D. Adams, "Changing Perceptions of Jesus' Parables through Art History: Polyvalency in Paint, in *Reluctant Partners*, ed. Ena G. Heller, pp.68-87.

BLACKBOARD: J.S. Held, *Rembrandt Studies*, "4. Rembrandt and the Book of Tobit," pp.118-43+.

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Background Reading:

G. Simmel, *Rembrandt. An Essay on the Philosophy of Art*, “3.

Religious Art,” pp.111-54.

M. Bal, *Reading Rembrandt. Beyond the Word-Image Opposition*, Chapters 4, 8, 9, pp.138-76, 286-360.

October 24 **NO CLASS: READING WEEK**

October 31 **Art, You and the GTU: Artstor and Biblia Sacra Database Workshop**
Guest Lecturer: Prof.dr. August den Hollander, Professor of the History of the Religious Book, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and Head Curator, Special Collections, Vrije Universiteitsbibliotheek, Amsterdam
GTU Hewlett Library Computer Classroom
Annotated bibliographies due by email to Prof. Mochizuki by 12 pm, Friday, November 3rd

November 7 **NO CLASS: RESEARCH PROJECT**

November 14 **NO CLASS: RESEARCH PROJECT**

6 PM: Lecture by Geert Mak, noted Dutch journalist and author

Dinner Board Room, GTU Hewlett Library

BLACKBOARD: G. Mak, Amsterdam, “6. Insiders and Outsiders,” pp.96-133.

November 21 **NO CLASS: 1st DRAFT of PAPER DUE (with images) by email TO ALL CLASS MEMBERS and Prof. Mochizuki by 12 pm, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21st**

November 28 **1st Draft Workshop**

Critical feedback on other papers due

December 5 **Conclusions**

FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS: NO EXTENSIONS
