Soon after its establishment in the late sixteenth century, the Dutch Republic became one of the most prosperous mercantile societies in early modern Europe. Its formidable global trading network spanned Europe, Asia, and South America. Economic success helped produce a thriving market for art, one defined by new audiences and genres. This course examines aspects of Dutch visual and material culture during its “Golden Age,” c. 1580-1700. Major themes include: the economics of art, gender and social identity, global trade, & relationships between science and the visual arts.