

**University of Washington Honors Program
Technology Culture and Environment in Amsterdam:
International research through the lens of urban observation
Summer 2010: July 18 - August 18 (12 credits)**

Course blog: <http://uwhonors2010.virtualknowledgestudio.nl/>

Research Wiki:

Instructor Contact Information:

Rob Corser— 00 39 345 286 0138

Clifford Tatum— 06-39-60-53-11

Mirjam Schieveld, ISHSS 06-51-82-83-46

Instructor drop-in office hours* (ISHSS cafeteria or in ISHSS courtyard):

On the following dates/times or by appointment:

20 July-12 August

1:00 p.m. -- 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays (or immediately after Tu,Th programs)

*If possible, let us know in advance if you are going to visit us during drop in office hours.

Course Goals:

Examine contemporary social and cultural issues in the urban context of Amsterdam, with emphasis on how the city is inhabited, interpreted, constructed, renewed, controlled, appropriated (misappropriated) and negotiated. Utilize interdisciplinary research methods and data collection and analysis techniques learned in spring seminar. Use your individual blogs as travel journal and program research wiki to record research, data, findings, and conclusions. Development of a community of interdisciplinary scholars committed to the practice of ethical international research. Be reflexive about data collection, the methods we use, and how our assumptions about reality influence research designs. International research is an interesting way to do this because many of our assumptions, particularly the unconscious ones, are put into relief as a result of being outside of our cultural context. Our use of e-Research collaborative practices makes this reflexivity all the more salient.

Student Objectives:

- Using your research proposal as a guide, actively engage in individual and collaborative field research.
- Reflect on inherent (e.g. cultural and ideological) assumptions in your research proposals. Adapt research proposals as needed.
- Utilize data collection techniques such as observation and note taking interviews, still image photography, sound and voice recordings, short video clips, and/or the use of geo-location tagging.
- Record process and final presentation on research wiki in text and with the use of media from your data collection (video, still photo, sound, etc.). You may also choose to Video Pod cast your final product with a text (on the wiki) description of your video treatment.
- Reflective engagement in group processes and evaluation.
- Conduct research ethically and, if applicable, in accordance with UW Human Subjects research guidelines.

Required Readings and Postings:

- The city is your text.
- Some short articles distributed by guest lecturers.

- Each student is required to post one Daily Dairy blog entry. Please see program schedule for your assigned day. Your posting should include writing (reflective) AND other forms of media (photos, maps, and/or audio or video).
- Each group is required to meet a minimum of once/week with instructors for update on research process. Meetings will be during drop in office hours, or by appointment during scheduled research update sessions.

Attendance and Preparation: You are expected to attend all lectures and mandatory excursions. PLEASE BE ON TIME. In addition, you must attend status updates with instructors and post regularly to the program research wiki. We also recommend keeping your blog updated with personal reflections.

General Program Etiquette: As in Seattle, the environment will be collegial and relaxed. It should also be a safe place for intellectual risk-taking, of dignity, and respect. Therefore, you are expected to observe the following: arrive on time to all lectures and events, be fully engaged in listening and discussing, and do not leave sessions early. Finally, be respectful of those who may have differing views, whether class participants, visiting faculty and students, or research subjects. We expect all participants to critique and dialogue from a variety of viewpoints that will enrich a thoughtful and open discussion. Academic inquiry invites us to examine differing viewpoints in an environment of openness and mutual respect.

Conflict resolution: If conflicts arise during the course of the program, the following steps should be followed:

1. Clarify your feelings before you begin discussions. Is this something that is clearly an issue?
2. Respectfully discuss the situation with the person or persons involved.
3. Be respectful and assume positive intentions.
4. If the conflict cannot be resolved through direct communication, contact Rob and/or Clifford for mediation. You may also contact Mirjam Schievelde for discussion and mediation.

Method of Evaluation: Student grades are derived from a combination of peer evaluation and instructor evaluation based on weighted percentages of your 1) research engagement as demonstrated by wiki postings and project reviews, 2) engagement in lectures and excursions, 3) Daily Dairy blog entry, 4) final presentation including wiki/podcast submission of final research report, 5) contribution to committee projects, and 6) peer/group evaluations. *Final report guidelines available next week.

Grades are calculated from the following components:

		instructor eval – 70%	peer eval – 30%
product	45% 15% 5% 5%	research wiki/podcast daily diary blog post peer/group evaluation self evaluation	
process	10% 10% 10%	in class/on excursions on line (wiki) group research dynamic	

Other Information:

Phones: You may rent a phone from the ISHSS office for a weekly fee, plus a deposit that is to be returned once the phone is returned. You buy minutes from any local grocery or convenience store to 'top up' the credit on your phone.

Dinners: We will have at least three group dinners –dates and times to be announced. The dinners will be paid through the program budget; however, UW policy prohibits us from paying for alcohol on the budget.

Museums: You have been provided with a museum card. The card will allow you to visit most museums in Amsterdam and throughout the Netherlands. We encourage you to enhance your knowledge of Dutch history, culture, and art by going to as many museums as time permits. A complete list of museums can be found at: <http://www.amsterdam.info/museums/> and museum card entry at: <http://www.amsterdam.info/museums/museumkaart/>

Instructors recommend the following (at a minimum): Van Gogh Museum, Rijksmuseum, Dutch Resistance Museum, Historical Museum, and the Anne Frank House (not covered by your museum card).

Equipment Rental: You may borrow the following equipment (please see Rob or Clifford):

- Voice recorders
- Video iPod
- Camera (limited use for video blogging only)

Code of Conduct: please review and sign the attached code of conduct.

Code of Conduct for Honors Study Abroad

Culture Technology and Environment in Amsterdam

Instructors: Rob Corser & Clifford Tatum, University of Washington Honors Program

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, July 18 -August 18, 2010

The Honors Program expects our international programs to be uniquely educational and positive experiences for all participants. Participants have responsibilities to each other, as a community of learning, and to their hosts, as representatives of the University of Washington, to engage in appropriate conduct. As such, the Honors Program maintains this code of conduct:

- Participants are expected to comply with the University of Washington Student Conduct Code (available online at <http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html>).
- All participants are expected to be engaged in all academic aspects of the program, including (but not limited to) punctual attendance to classes, completion of assignments, and participation in class discussions.
- All participants are expected to take part in required group activities, including (but not limited to) group meetings, projects, field trips and service learning engagements.
- Conduct which is threatening to the well being of another student, or that is demeaning, is prohibited.
- All participants are expected to respect the property and privacy of fellow participants.
- Participants are expected to abide by the University of Washington's policy prohibiting sexual harassment.
- Conduct that negatively impacts another participant's engagement or participation in the program is prohibited.
- All participants are expected to obey the laws of the host country, and the rules of host institutions (dormitories, classrooms, workplaces etc.).
- Conduct which threatens the viability of future programs in the host country is prohibited.
- While having fun, all participants are expected to remain safe and respectful of each other and of our hosts.
- Participants should communicate openly and directly with each other regarding any conflicts.
- Since we will be sharing facilities, reasonable tidiness and cleanliness are expected of all participants.
- Participants who fail to observe this code of conduct may be dismissed from the program.

I have read, understood and accepted the above code of conduct.

Student Signature and Date

Print Student Name