2016 NEH SUMMER SEMINAR FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

THE DUTCH REPUBLIC AND BRITAIN: THE MAKING OF A WORLD ECONOMY
AND MODERN SOCIETY

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

June 26 to July 29, 2016

Thanks for your interest in the five-week seminar on the Dutch Republic and Britain, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Seminar Topic

The purpose of this five-week NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, is to investigate how a region of Northwestern Europe, centered on the North Sea, emerged as a liberal market society, became the first region in the world to develop a modern economy of sustained economic growth, which spawned the first industrial revolution, and constructed a European led world economy. One of the important goals of the seminar is to suggest a broader historical perspective on contemporary issues associated with the term ‘globalization.’ We will study how the national economy of the Dutch Republic rose to pre-eminence in the new European world-economy of the seventeenth century, how Britain acquired this supremacy in the eighteenth century, and how it transformed itself to become the first
industrial nation. We will discuss contemporary accounts, historical documents, visual images and seminal interpretations of this world-historical transformation. In order to broaden our perspective and appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of humanistic studies, we also will study visual images of the material culture of the period and visit important museum collections of Dutch and British art and some relevant historical sites in New York and New England. Since our approach will be interdisciplinary, I hope to attract participants with a wide variety of backgrounds and interests, including those interested in history, art history, philosophy, religion, literature, economics, political science, geography and the history of science.

Seminar Structure

Our seminar will be organized to foster a comfortable and collegial intellectual atmosphere that will emphasize the raising of broad and significant questions. The seminar will meet three times per week from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with a break for coffee, at the recently renovated UMass Dartmouth library. There will also be seven full days of guided historical site and museum visits in New England and New York City. Except for the third weekend, when we will travel to New York, weekends will allow you to explore New England on your own.


My role will be to organize the seminar, to encourage discussion, to listen, to comment, and to help you with seminar preparation. Participants will be organized into five cooperative learning groups. Each group will take turns leading the discussion on the texts to be discussed, suggest key questions, provide context and material on related topics and engage the seminar in a variety of learning strategies. While the focus of the seminar will be on the required reading, you also will have access to the print and electronic resources at and through the University of Massachusetts library. Writing is an important part of learning and thus each participant will keep a journal and write an interpretive essay or develop a teaching project. Drafts of these will be discussed in the cooperative learning groups and participants will present their work to the
seminar during the last few meetings. Completed essays and papers will be posted on the seminar website.

Accommodations

Apartment style housing with single bedrooms, a kitchen, living room and bathrooms will be available to participants in Woodlands, a recently built dormitory complex a few minutes walk from our seminar room in the library for $1,409 per person. See the link below: http://www.umassd.edu/housing/livingoncampus/upperclassapartments/.

There is a good deal of summer rental housing available in the area at much higher costs. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth is a modern suburban campus of about 10,000 students on the Southcoast between Cape Cod and Newport, about 30 miles from Providence and 55 miles from Boston.

In your free time you will be able to visit the many museums and historical sites in the region. The New Bedford Whaling Museum has a significant collection of paintings, prints, books and ceramics about the early modern Dutch whaling industry. In Newport and at Brown University there are exhibits on colonial participation in the British slave trade. There are many historic houses and small museum collections in Southern New England that are especially good for learning about the importance of colonial international trade and the widespread consumption of British goods in the colonies. Recreational facilities include ocean beaches close to campus, bike paths in Rhode Island and on Cape Cod, as well as trails and walks in nature preserves.
NEH Stipend and Costs

NEH will provide a $3900 stipend for participants in the seminar to help defray your travel, books and personal expenses. Housing at UMD will cost $1,409 and two nights in a hotel in New York City will come to about $500 for a total housing cost of about $1,900. NEH will fund the travel costs for our museum and site visits in New England and New York but you will be responsible for the cost of accommodations in New York City.

Academic credit: If you are interested in earning three graduate credits in History from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for the seminar, you will be able to do so by paying a fee to the university of about $700.

Applications

I have a good deal of experience working with teachers in previous NEH Seminars. Indeed, these seminars have been the most satisfying educational experience of my career. If you share my enthusiasm for this opportunity, I hope you will consider applying to the seminar. The application deadline is March 1, 2016. For an application and a complete schedule and syllabus, go to NEH Seminar link at: http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/. For a hard copy, contact Sue Foley, sfoley@umassd.edu or call 508-999-8301. For further information, write Gerard Koot gkoot@umassd.edu or call 508 994-3145.