



KIIS Netherlands Program, Summer 2023

GEOG 364 Geography of Europe

Instructor: Tony Stallins

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: The course explores the patterns and processes that have shaped and continue to shape Europe, placing a particular emphasis on of the Netherlands. The course is organized thematically rather than as a grand-tour of the various countries that comprise Europe. We will focus on four factors that are common throughout the entire region: the role of the land, water and climate; tensions between urban centers and the rural countryside; immigration from former colonies and regions of political and economic instability; and the balance of forces shaping national cohesion and fragmentation.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objective: To develop familiarity with the physical, cultural, economic and political geographies of Europe and how they compare and contrast to those of the Netherlands

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the processes that have shaped the geographies of Europe
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the themes and issues that currently animate academic debate about Europe
- 3) Demonstrate an appreciation of the cultural diversity of Europe

4. Major Topics



Physical geography of Europe and the Netherlands. Can you name a river in the Netherlands? Where is, what is, and how do you pronounce Schiermonnikoog? In this first unit we will familiarize ourselves with the general physical features of Europe, and in particular the natural and often highly human-modified landscapes of the Netherlands



Human mobilities: past and present.

Europe and the Dutch have travelled out to the world. The world has also come to the Netherlands, most recently in the present-day immigration from countries in the Middle East and Africa. Using the Netherlands as a template for these dynamics, we examine how this mobility has shaped the cities we stay in during our trip



The tension between urban and rural.

Europe presents two contrasting images. There is the village and an often romanticized rural, agricultural life. On the other hand, the great cities of Europe have long been associated with cosmopolitanism. In what ways does this tension between the rural and the urban manifest in the Netherlands? What are the ways the urban and the rural are represented and contested there?



Integration and fragmentation. From the world wars to the present-day fault lines in the European Union, Europe's political, economic, and cultural fabric has often shifted between integration and fragmentation. What factors in Europe today are contributing to its cohesiveness? Its fragmentation? Where and how are these processes visible in the Netherlands?

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: Please consult with the advisor of your degree program to inquire if any general education requirements can be fulfilled with this course. For University of Kentucky students, GEOG 364 in the Netherlands can be assigned 300-level credit as GEO 326 Geography or as 300-level credit as an Environmental and Sustainability (ENS) elective course.

6. Required Readings and Materials: A set of readings will be assembled and made available to students as a single pdf before trip departure. These readings will come from newspapers and writings that can be described as striking a balance between journalistic and academic writing. Included in this packet will be a list of terms and maps that will be used for some of our activities. There are no major purchases for books or other materials, although students may wish to print out their pdf of readings.

7. Graded Assignments: (Add content here to include title and/or brief description of graded assignments. Indicate how much each assignment is worth toward the overall course grade. If you assign a small percentage of course points for participation, include here as well. Note KIIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

Map identification – 25%

City-neighborhood conceptual mapping – 25%

Urban-rural photo essay – 25%

Current events portfolio – 25%

8. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

9. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations. If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the

accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter. In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

10. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / andrea.anderson@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159. For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

11. Course Schedule

| Lecture/week | Topic | Assignments |
|--------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Map identification | Periodic map quizzes throughout the program |
| 2 | City-neighborhood mapping | Students will use Google Earth and neighborhood walks to make a conceptual map of the international presences in a Dutch city |
| 3 | Urban-rural photo essay | Students will take, collect, and compile photos that illustrate how rural and urban space are both disjunct and integrated in the Netherlands |
| 4 | Current events portfolio | Through public signage, newspapers, and any online media, students will assemble a portfolio assessing the way cohesion and fragmentation express themselves in the Netherlands today |