



KIIS Netherlands Program, Summer 2023

GEOG 385 Society, Resources and Climate

Instructor: Tony Stallins

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: An examination of environmental issues and solutions in the Netherlands, with a focus on alternative transportation, food sustainability, sea-level rise, and decarbonization. Through readings, short lectures, organized visits, and independent assignments, we will learn about Dutch innovations in marine resource management, agriculture and food production, coastal engineering, and transitions to a green economy.

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 describe strategies for addressing ongoing environmental change

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

- 1) Discuss how the Netherlands are responding to environmental change and resource issues through social, economic, and technological innovations
- 2) Describe the unique historical, social, and environmental circumstances of the Netherlands that play an outsized role in their responses to these changes and issues

4. Major Topics



Alternative transportation. We will examine how the Dutch get around - by bike, train, bus and by foot – as alternatives to the car-bound culture of the US. Bicycle commuter culture and practices that appear in US often appears first in high-population density cities of northern Europe.

Innovations in food and agriculture.

In addition to their tulips and their incorporation into global markets, the Netherlands manages to produce a large amount of food on a small amount of land, much of it prone to flooding. Urban and indoor farming are ways that make this possible for the Dutch

Climate change: sea-level rise. Past, present and future are bound to the sea in the Netherlands. Examples of how the Dutch have learned to live with the sea are visible in the everyday landscape. From residential homes to massive dikes and gates controlling the movement of water, the Netherlands is the place to go to learn about the ways we might adjust to sea level rise.

Decarbonization. Yes, there are windmills. In this unit, we will learn more about their original purpose, but more importantly, how they relate to the energy and waste management policies of the Netherlands today. How do the Dutch compare to Americans in their incorporation of renewable energy and recycling into their lifestyles? Is it just a matter of technology and planning? Or is it more about the attitudes toward sustainability?

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 385 Society, Resources and Climate can be assigned 300-level credit as a Geography (GEO) or an Environmental and Sustainability (ENS) courses

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.)

Alternative transportation participatory research – 25%

Food production interview – 25%

Living with the coast photo essay – 25%

Decarbonization and the circular economy current events – 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/eeo/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	Alternative transportation	Students will participate in a variety of transportation modes while in the Netherlands. For one of them, students compose an essay reflecting on their experience and observations
2	Climate change and sea-level rise in Netherlands	Students will compile a photo collection illustrating the many ways the Dutch have integrated the ocean, rivers, and flooding into their day-to-day culture.
3	Urban agriculture and food production interviews	Students will conduct interviews with individuals engaged in the cultivation, selling, or cooking of any type of agricultural product or food in order to get a better understanding of the cultural dimensions of food in the Netherlands
4	Decarbonization and the circular economy current events portfolio	Through a range of media outlets, students will assemble materials documenting the key decarbonization and recycling issues unfolding in the Netherlands or in particular Dutch cities today.