



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 the Netherlands. We will focus on three factors that are common throughout European Union the role of the land, water and climate; tensions between urban centers and the rural countryside; and immigration from former colonies and regions of political and economic instability.

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 view the Netherlands through its global mobilities as well as through the tensions between the urban and the rural

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

- 1) Document and describe some of the central mobilities of people, goods, services, and knowledge in the Netherlands today and explain how they relate to the history of the Netherlands.
- 2) Describe and document how the rural and urban spaces are integrated in the Netherlands, how they are separate and disjunct, and the tensions that animate these forces.



4. Major Topics

Places, terms, and concepts. Can you name a river in the Netherlands and identify its location on a map? What is the BoerBurgerBeweging? We will familiarize ourselves with the general landscape features of the Netherlands and develop a basic literacy in Dutch terms and concepts from the past and the present.



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: All class materials will be made available for free online. These readings will come from newspapers and writings that can be described as striking a balance between journalistic and academic writing.

7. Graded Assignments:

Note KUIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

Map assessments and terms

To make the best use of our travel, we will need to be familiar with the general cultural, physical, and historical features of the natural and human-modified landscapes of the Netherlands. Work will consist of weekly map assessments and/or discussion of terms assigned to individual students by the instructor.

60 points total; 5 map and term grades totaling 35 points and a 25 point final assessment of your mastery of the terms. At the end of the semester, you will be required to arrange these slides and the terms and images on them into themed units. This will require you to know the terms and be able to pick which ones go together. Rearrange the slides so that they have a logical organization. Use title slides and subheadings so that the content has structure and an internal consistency rather than being a long list of terms. This activity will be done in groups of two. The link to your own reorganized Google Slides file should be emailed to me at the end of the semester. Grading will be based on this rubric:

25 points for exceptional organization and annotation. Slides reflect coherent thematic units. Title slides are informative and easy to follow.

20 points for good organization and annotation. Slides are thematically arranged but not as coherent and consistent as a higher score.

15 points for marginal organization and annotation. Slides convey a cursory understanding of the content

5 points for weakly organized and annotated slides. Slides lack coherency of major themes and ideas about the Netherlands

0-5 points for minimal investment of effort or time.

Blog - Dutch mobilities: past and into the present

The Netherlands traveled out to the world. The world has also come to the Netherlands. People, goods, and services can be mobile. Ideas and practices are also mobile. What are the central mobilities of people, goods, services, and knowledge in the Netherlands today? How have mobilities in the past shaped the mobilities of the Netherlands today? Compose a travel guide in Google Blogger that describes places in the Netherlands that convey the wide range and intensity of these distinctively Dutch mobilities. Prioritize your own photos and short videos. Describe what is shown in your photos and relate it to its historical and present-day context.

Blog – Dutch mobilities: 10 points for blog set up, formatting and submission of URL, and two grades of grades at 25 points each for a total of 60 points.

Blog - Netherlands urban and rural: tensions and integration

Europe presents two contrasting images. There is the village and an often romanticized rural, agricultural life, abundant with nature. On the other hand, the great cities of Europe have long been associated with culture and cosmopolitanism. How are the rural and urban spaces integrated in the Netherlands? How are they separate and disjunct, if not in conflict? Compile and describe photos on Google Blogger conveying the ways the Dutch have integrated the rural and the urban, and the problems that arise from it. Provide historical and present-day context for your photos and descriptions

Blog – Urban and rural: 10 points for blog set up, formatting and submission of URL, and two grades of grades at 25 points each for a total of 60 points.

180 points total. Final letter grade is the percentage of points you earn out of 180 points.

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, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@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

Week	Assignments
Class 1 – May 31	Students will come to each class meeting having read the assigned online materials posted through Google. A map assessment and/or a discussion of key terms (to be defined by students before class) will take place each meeting. These readings and the key terms, in conjunction with organized group travel as well as independent student travel, will form the basis for the content of two blogs, one each related to the objectives listed above in graded assignments. Blog instructions will be given prior to class departure from the US.
Class 2 – June 7	
Class 3 – June 14	
Class 4 – June 21	