

KIIS Netherlands Program, Summer 2023 (May 25 – June 23)

GEOG 364 Geography of Europe

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Course Description: The course explores the patterns and processes that have shaped and continue to shape Europe, placing a particular emphasis on the Netherlands. It 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:



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?

For University of Kentucky students, GEOG 364 can be assigned 300-level credit at UK as GEO 326 Geography of Europe or as an Environmental and Sustainability (ENS) elective course.

Tentative Course Schedule and Graded Activities

Lecture/week	Topic	Assignment
1	Map identification	Periodic map quizzes throughout the program so you will have an idea of where you are and what you are looking at.
2	City-neighborhood mapping	Students will use Google Earth, smartphones and neighborhood walks to make a conceptual map of international presences in a Dutch city and explain their origins
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