

The Netherlands and Europeanization

GL/POLS 4400 6.0, Glendon College, York University

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This intensive summer abroad course fosters an understanding of political, social, and economic transformations in the European Union, focusing on the case of a middle power member state: the Netherlands. One of the original six member states, the Netherlands continues to play a key role in European integration and is the largest per capita contributor to the EU budget. From the destruction of the Second World War, successive Dutch governments have been instrumental in building European institutions which have transformed governance on the continent. Awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize for helping “transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace,” the EU today faces the challenges of a common currency without a common fiscal policy, illiberal governments within and without, and a likely British exit. Refugees desperately seeking safe haven encounter discrimination and antipathy, and anti-immigrant sentiment exists across Europe, placing stress on the Schengen system of no internal border controls and the promise of a common EU citizenship. Tensions are exacerbated by euroskepticism that sees the nation-state, rather than European cooperation and common institutions, as the proper locus of loyalty and best placed to solve problems. Yet even in times of crisis the EU is admired for its powerful impact on governance processes and outcomes. After readings, we engage in self-study with written reflections before travelling to Europe; then we engage in intensive site visits over 2.5 weeks in August 2020, before rounding off the course with a reflection paper.

York students who complete the course will receive a York International Mobility Award of \$500 and may also be eligible for additional assistance. For more information please see <https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/summer-programs/>

Course aims and structure

This course aims to enable you to 1) gain an empirical understanding and theoretical grounding to analyze developments and ideas related to the EU and European integration from the perspective of a middle power member state (the Netherlands); 2) participate in an intensive ‘political immersion abroad’ experience with professionalism; and 3) hone your writing skills through short writing assignments. To succeed, you should read and think carefully about the readings, participate actively in the site visits (including co-leading discussions with the guest speakers), and write reading analyses as well as three reflection papers.

Grading

- 35% Reading analyses: seven reading analyses (5% each) submitted online in July.
- 16% Site reflection papers: two papers (8% each) submitted on 16 Aug + 23 Aug.
- 33% Participation: presentable + on-time participation in onsite activities; co-leading discussions with guest speakers.
- 16% Final reflection paper: reflection paper on course submitted by 31 Aug.

Policies: Please familiarize yourself with <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/> and <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/>

This class will operate using Glendon eclass (moodle) for reading materials (most of which are available for free on the website), submission of assignments, and other course-related materials: <http://eclass.glendon.yorku.ca/> Please ensure your email address is correct.

Course outline

Online readings available starting in June 2020

Potential site visit to Consulate General of the Netherlands in Toronto (tbc)

Itinerary (accommodations fixed; site visits subject to change)

Latest August 10: depart Toronto (students are encouraged to depart earlier to explore other parts of Europe, as long as they arrive in The Hague by August 11)

Tue 11: arrive and check in at [Stayokay The Hague](#)

Early evening walk through The Hague

Wed 12: morning program + afternoon program

Prodemos + Binnenhof (tbc)

Thu 13: morning program + afternoon program

Political party representative, Member of Parliament, or Senator (tbc)

Fri 14: morning in Leiden. Afternoon: walking tour of Leiden (tbc)

Saturday 15: free day. Suggestion: Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum and

<https://www.iamsterdam.com/en/see-and-do/whats-on/major-events-and-celebrations/sail-amsterdam>

Sunday 16: free day. Submit first site reflection paper. Suggestion: Delft

Monday 17: Depart Stayokay The Hague via group bus (tbc)

<https://freedommuseum.com/> and Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groesbeek_Canadian_War_Cemetery

Walking tour of Nijmegen + talk: dinner (tbc)

Afterwards: Nijmegen-Maastricht = 90 minute drive. Overnight at [Stayokay Maastricht](#)

Tuesday 18:

Maastricht: Limburg provincial house. Speaker from university, or city?

Evening: train to Brussels, check into [Brueghel](#).

Wednesday 19 + Thursday 20 Brussels

EU institutions (details tbc)

Friday 21: Thalys Brussels to Rotterdam, check into [Stayokay Rotterdam](#)

Maastoren

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maeslantkering>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/15/world/europe/climate-change-rotterdam.html>

Saturday 22 Free day: suggestion: Gouda and/or Utrecht

Sunday 23 Free day. Check out of Stayokay Rotterdam and into Stayokay The Hague.
Submit second site reflection paper. Suggestion: Scheveningen

Monday 24

Eurojust / Europol (tbc) + speaker

Tuesday 25

International Court of Justice (tbc) + speaker

Wednesday 26

morning program + afternoon program

Thursday 27

Closing in time for participants to catch flights back to Toronto – though students may also choose to stay a few days extra, or travel to their European exchange site.

Submit final reflection paper by 31 August.