

# Geography 3693

## Geography of Northern Europe

Winter Term, 2014

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**Lectures:** Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:00 – 11:30 in AT 1007

### **Course Description:**

In this course, we conduct a systematic regional survey of the Northern European cultural region. Students will gain an appreciation of regional cultural diversity, history, politics and economy. Physical geography of the region will also be covered. Broad course topics will be introduced in lectures while assigned readings will allow for more detailed regional case studies.

### **Course Objectives:**

The following topics will be discussed in lectures:

Northern Europe - physical extent and boundaries  
    Physiography and climate  
    Politics  
    European Union

Northern European cultural identities  
    Historic population migrations in Northern Europe  
    Languages  
    Religion and ethnic identity

Economics of the North  
    Financial Centres  
    European Integration

The course will be organized by regions. Lectures will discuss each country/region of northern Europe while emphasizing the larger issues listed above.

Regions of special interest:

The Netherlands (Society, liberality, law and role in the world)  
(Case study: "The port of Rotterdam as an engine for European integration")  
Documentaries: "*A Place That Works*", *Holland Waterproof*"

Republic of Ireland (Cultural/Economic Rebirth under EU, Changing Demographics)  
Documentaries: "*Sex in a Cold Climate*".

Northern Ireland (Violent Political Conflict)

Finland (Historic Population Movements)  
(Case study: "The peopling of Finland")

Russia (Post-communism, social and economic upheaval, re-emergence)

Sweden (Welfare State success, Effective Environmental Energy Policy)

Iceland (Economics)  
Documentary: "Iceland" (W5 episode)

Baltic States: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania (Positive experience of Post-Communism)

Great Britain (Economic/Industrial significance, Northern European Multicultural experience)  
(Case study: "Always here and there: the city of London")

Time permitting:

Denmark

Wales

Norway

Scotland

**Textbook:**

Assigned readings only.

**Course Grading:**

Test #1	25%	(Feb, 7)
Test #2	25%	(March, 7)
Final Exam	50%	

**Course Policies**

The following course policies are consistent with those of the Geography Department and Lakehead University.

1. Regular attendance is expected in lectures.
2. Any absence due to illness, disability, or domestic affliction should be reported to the instructor. Absence due to extracurricular activities (e.g. athletics) should be discussed with the instructor **PRIOR** to the absence. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from a classmate. I can provide you with any handouts, but will not provide you a repeat of the lecture or my lecture notes.
3. Students with special needs should talk to me at the beginning of the course and register with the Student Success Centre.
4. Tardiness is frowned upon. Be late at your own risk.
5. Assigned readings, when provided, are to be read prior to the next lecture. This will allow you to get the most out of the lectures and ask informed questions.
6. Questions may be asked **anytime** during lectures. I won't be offended.
7. No make-up exams will be given without a medical excuse backed by a medical certificate. No one will be allowed to write the tests or the final exam prior to the scheduled date.