

Geography 3693

Geography of Northern Europe

Winter Term, 2022

Instructor: Dr. Kamil Zaniewski
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Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, 8:30 – 10:00 by Zoom and in ATAC2021
(All lectures will be delivered by Zoom until at least January 24, 2022, as per current university policy)

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

This 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	30%	(Feb, 14)
Test #2	30%	(March, 14)
Final Exam	40%	

Course Policies

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

1. Regular attendance is expected in all zoom/lecture sessions.
2. Any absence due to illness, disability, or domestic affliction should be reported to the instructor. Additional digital materials will be available on the D2L site.
3. Students with special needs should talk to me at the beginning of the course and register with the Student Success Centre.
4. Assigned readings, when provided, are to be read prior to the next session. This will allow you to get the most out of the Zoom sessions and ask informed questions.
5. Questions may be asked anytime during lectures. The best way is to ask a question through the Zoom chat. You can also digitally raise your hand in Zoom. Failing those, if you feel it's important enough, just interrupt me!
6. Make-up exams will be given only with an acceptable excuse as defined by the University calendar (medical, bereavement, etc.)
7. Use of working digital camera will be mandatory for the tests and the final exam.