

Geography 3693
Geography of Northern Europe
Winter Term, 2023

Instructor: Dr. Kamil Zaniewski
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Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays, 8:30 – 10:00 in RC 2003

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:

- Dutch attitudes towards personal freedoms (the notorious Dutch “liberality”)
- Dutch relationship with their peculiar geographic natural environment setting (dealing with floods as a national policy)

Additional reading case study: “The port of Rotterdam as an engine for European integration”.

Sweden

- Welfare State success
- Effective Environmental Energy Policy
- Changes in geopolitical attitudes

Ireland:

- Demographics and the impact of education on social attitudes.

Documentary: “*Sex in a Cold Climate*”.

Northern Ireland

- Case study of extended civil war and its resolution

Iceland

- A study of in small nation economics: advantages and perils

Russia

- A study in transition from monarchy to anarchy to communism to “democracy”
- The current war with Ukraine: its causes and possible future direction

Finland

- Historic population movements

Additional reading case study: “The peopling of Finland”.

United Kingdom

- Northern European Multicultural experience
- Economic/Industrial significance in transition

Additional reading case study: “Always here and there: the city of London”

Estonia

- Case study in positive experience of political, social and economic transition out of the

soviet communist system

Textbook:

Assigned readings only.

Course Grading:

Test #1	30%	(Feb, 13)
Test #2	30%	(March, 13)
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, and assumed, in all lectures.
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.
6. Make-up exams will be given only with an acceptable excuse as defined by the University calendar (medical, bereavement, etc.)
7. Both of the tests and the final exam will be done through the D2L portal but will be done in person (in the assigned classroom). Please notify me if you are unable to obtain the use of a wifi-enabled laptop computer for the test.