CIEE Amsterdam, Netherlands

Course title: Contemporary Dutch Social Policy
Course code: NLST 3002 NETH
Programs offering course: Business and Culture, Social Sciences and Humanities
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The Netherlands -- and Amsterdam specifically -- are known worldwide for their liberal social policies and progressive politics, which led Russell Shorto to subtitle his biography of Amsterdam as "A History of the World's Most Liberal City." When you ask tourists and visitors from abroad they usually have the image of a country in which everything is possible: drugs and sex work are legal, euthanasia and abortion are commonly practiced. During this course students will interrogate this overly simplistic view of the Netherlands as a progressive free-haven and will instead develop a nuanced, historical and critical understanding of how these Dutch social policies were enshrined in law and what they mean in practice. The course will accomplish this through a combination of lectures and guided site visits to those organizations that are responsible for implementing these policies and assessing their effectiveness.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the historical development of signature social policies with which the Netherlands has become synonymous, and the ways in which these are inflected by Dutch cultural values;
- Be able to critically assess the effectiveness of select social policies – both within the context of the Netherlands as well as from a comparative Dutch-U.S. American perspective;
- Be able to discern, parse, and evaluate the differences between social policy as policy and social policy as lived reality;
- Be able to craft a persuasive argument for or against a specific social policy initiative that is rooted in a holistic critical analysis of that policy in either the Netherlands or the U.S.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The course will run for 16 weeks, meeting twice a week (for 1.5 hours) and will be divided into seven units or blocks. Each unit will focus on specific themes related to contemporary Dutch culture and social policy with specific readings related to each topic. The units will include a combination of lectures, guest speakers and guided site visits.

All lectures by the course instructor contain PowerPoint / keynote presentations, short videos and photos to exemplify and illustrate the theory discussed. Students will give a presentation on a subject of their choice (in which they are stimulated to use audio visual material). The students are asked to form their own opinions and discuss them in class, presentations and papers.

Papers

Here are a few guidelines for all papers and how they will be graded.

- Papers must have a title (and subtitle)
- Papers must have:
  - Your name
  - Date
  - Title class and group
○ Name lecturer
○ Papers must be numbered
○ Give notes and literature
○ Double spaced
○ Write in an introduction why you choose this topic and explain what you are going to write about
○ Write in a conclusion what your findings are
○ If you give your opinion, it should be based on facts

All papers and assignments must be submitted on Canvas.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

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**Course Requirements**

**Presentation**

Students must conduct a 15-20 minute presentation on one of the themes discussed and may use other audio visual equipment such as a film if this a way the student is used to expressing himself/herself. Examples of topics that can be covered within the presentation are the effectiveness of the policies or the effect they have on the image of Amsterdam and/or the Netherlands.

The course encourages students to do presentations and papers through the eyes of the discipline in which they are majoring. For example, if a student is discussing the theme of drugs: the sociology major could approach the issue by looking at the reasons that addicts as a social group resort to drug abuse. The psychology major could approach this by looking at the effects of drug abuse on the individual and the psychological effects.

**Assignments**

(2x5 = 10%)

During the course students have to complete two assignment in small groups or individually. These assignments are reflection papers of your group and of Dutch citizens. The objective: do you/the people you interviewed find the Netherlands really so liberal as we’ve learned in theory? Hand in one paper per group.

- Assignment 1 (5%): Visit a gay venue with your group in Amsterdam and write a 700-800 word paper on your impressions related to the social policies regarding queerness in the Netherlands. This paper should include the findings of a short interview.
- Assignment 2 (5%): With your group, conduct several interviews in Amsterdam and/or other Dutch cities about the social policies in the Netherlands. Results should be presented in a 700-800 word paper.

**Short Papers**

(3x10 = 30%)

Students will be required to write 3 short papers (700-800 words each) on a theme of their choice (on a self-chosen theme). Examples of topics that can be covered within the short papers are the effectiveness of the policies or the affect they have on the image of the Netherlands. The course encourages students to complete papers through the eyes of the discipline in which they are majoring. For example if a student is discussing the theme of drugs: the sociologist could approach the issue by looking at the reasons that addicts, as a social group, resort to drug abuse. The psychologist could approach this by looking at the effects of drug abuse on the individual and the psychological effects.

**Final Paper**

The final paper will consist of a 10-12 word paper. This paper must be an in depth analysis of the tensions encountered within the social policies discussed in the course. All papers are research papers and must therefore have proper annotation and footnotes (in any way you are used to at your home university, and must be double spaced.)
Note about all assignments: Late assignments will be marked down with 1 point off. Assignments more than 3 days (72 hours) late will not be accepted.

**Participation**

Each student is required to attend all sessions of the course and to participate actively in class discussions and during guided site visits.

Students who make active connections to the concepts from the reading materials in class discussions, students who actively ask questions, and students who actively reflect on out-of-class experiences in class will receive extra points for participation. Participation points will be deducted when students do not participate in class or have not read the assigned reading materials before coming to class.

Since we will be discussing culturally sensitive issues in class, the classroom must be a safe space in which students are able to express their opinions openly. Discriminatory comments or language of any kind will not be tolerated.

**Attendance**

Each student is expected to attend all sessions of the course and to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance will be taken every class session by the course instructor. Absences will be penalized according to the CIEE Amsterdam attendance policy outlined below:

- 1 or 2 absences = complete 1,500 word make-up assignment
- 3 absences = 10 points deducted from the student's final grade
- 4 absences = the student fails the course (F is listed on the transcript)

  - If you arrive to class 15+ minutes late, this counts as a ½ absence.
  - At all times, you need to inform the instructor – before the start of class – of any absences. Failure to notify the teacher in advance will result in an extra assignment.
  - If you are sick (i.e. physically incapable of attending class), you may miss class, but you will have to complete a makeup assignment
  - Going on/returning from a trip are not valid excuses for missing or showing up late to a CIEE class
  - Note about all assignments: Late assignments will be marked down by 1 point (out of 10) for every day the assignment is late. Assignments that are more than 3 days (72 hours) late will not be accepted.

_N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site._

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Introduction lecture

Intro Course and concise history of the NL

Read introduction in Reader and Chapt. 1, 7 DtD

Class: 1.2 Introduction lecture continued

Political system, pillarization

Continue reading Chapt. 2, 4, 5, 9 DtD

**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 Intro lecture Migration

Who came to the NL and why?

Class: 2.2 Introduction lecture Drugs

How does the NL deal with hard and soft drugs?

Read Chapt. 18
Week 3
Class: 3.1 Site visite De Regenboog shelter
       Visit a drugs consumption room
       Read Chapt. 10, 11, 15

Class: 3.2 Student presentations Drugs and short papers due
       3 or 4 students present on Drugs

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Intro lecture on Prostitution
       What kind of sex work is (il)legal in the NL?

Class: 4.2 Guest speaker on Prostitution
       Personal story of a sex worker

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Site visit to Prostitution Information Center
       How do the sex workers in the Red Light District work?

Class: 5.2 Intro lecture on Homosexuality
       History of homosexuality of the NL

Week 6
Class: 6.1 Guest speaker COC
       (Homo)sexuality and gender discussed in the class room

Class: 6.2 Student presentations on prostitution and short papers due
       3 or 4 students present on Prostitution

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Guest speaker on transgender rights in the Netherlands
       The history of transgenders in the NL and a personal story of a transgender person

Class: 7.2 Student presentations on Gender and Sexuality and short papers due
       3 or 4 students present on Gender and Sexuality

Week 8
Class: 8.1 Introduction lecture on abortion and sex education
       Sexual education in the NL, Why does the NL have such low figures on STI’s, abortion and teen pregnancy?

Class: 8.2 Introduction lecture on euthanasia
       How does euthanasia work in the NL, who is eligible and for what reason?

Week 9
Class: 9.1 Student presentations on Abortion and Euthanasia and short papers due
       3 or 4 students present on Abortion and Euthanasia
Class: 9.2  Dutch welfare system

How does the Dutch welfare system work? What is paid for and for whom?

**Week 10**
Class: 10.1  Black Piet

Is Black Piet a racial figure? What is Dutch culture and Dutch identity?

Class: 10.2  Lecture on the Dutch justice system

Why does the NL have such low figures on crime and the US such high numbers?

**Week 11**
Class: 11.1  Guest speaker on Justice: Carola Vrugteveen

How do we try to reintegrate criminals back into society?

**Week 12**
Class: 12.1  Lecture on Housing

What types of housing exist in the NL/Amsterdam and how do people live and what do they pay?

**Week 13**
Class: 13.1  Student presentations on Justice, Migration and Housing

3 or 4 students present and short papers are due

Class: 13.2  Case studies

Students work on case studies in class

**Week 14**
Class: 14.1  Wrap-up meeting

How do students see the social policies of the NL?

Evaluation of the class

All short papers and assignments are due

**Course Materials**

**Readings**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction classes</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. On images and stereotypes &amp; Different other articles</td>
<td>Dealing with the Dutch — Jacob Vossestein</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. In the beginning</td>
<td>Only in Holland, Only the Dutch — Marc Resch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. History</td>
<td>Focus on the Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Political system</td>
<td>Dealing with the Dutch — Jacob Vossestein</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The Dutch, I presume? &amp; A sea of succes</td>
<td>The Dutch, I presume? — Martijn de Rooi</td>
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<td>6. Final Cut</td>
<td>The New Yorker — I. Buruma</td>
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<td>7. Meet the chilly, passionate Dutch</td>
<td>Han van der Horst</td>
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<td>8. Regions versus Randstad</td>
<td>Dealing with the Dutch — Jacob Vossestein</td>
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<td>10. FAQ Drugs - A guide to Dutch Policy</td>
<td>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>11. The consequences of pragmatism</td>
<td>Rob Schoof</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. The liberal society</td>
<td>The Dutch, I presume? — Martijn de Rooi</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. The Dutch way of managing the unmanageable</td>
<td>NRC Handelsblad - Marc Chavannes</td>
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<td>14. Why the Dutch don’t use drugs</td>
<td>De Gids. Misunderstanding the Netherlands — Arjen Mulder</td>
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<td>15. Inside Holland’s ‘Half Baked’ Pot Policy</td>
<td>CBS News — Brian Montopoli</td>
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### Sexuality & Gender

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<th>19. Conformist nonchalance</th>
<th>The Dutch way of managing the unmanageable – Marc Chavannes</th>
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<td>20. FAQ Same-sex marriage</td>
<td>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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### Migration

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<th>22. Allochtonen</th>
<th>Dealing with the Dutch – Jacob Vossestein</th>
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<td>23. Focus Migration – NL</td>
<td>Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Conclusion</td>
<td>Immigrant integration. The Dutch case – Hans Vermeulen and Rinus Pennix</td>
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<td>25. The egalitarian city:</td>
<td>Understanding Amsterdam – Susan Fainstein</td>
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<td>images of Amsterdam</td>
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<td>Has His Black Pete(s),</td>
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<td>Charges of Racism Follow</td>
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### Abortion & Euthanasia

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<th>27. Origins of egalitarianism</th>
<th>Dealing with the Dutch – Jacob Vossestein</th>
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<tr>
<td>28. Q&amp;A Abortion in the NL</td>
<td>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>29. FAQ Euthanasia 2010</td>
<td>Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>30. A Chronicle of Dutch</td>
<td>International Herald Tribune – Laura Höflinger</td>
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<td>Euthanasia</td>
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### Online Resources

All websites are in English.

www.euro.eu.int
Website of the European Union
www.koninklijkhuis.nl
Site on the Dutch monarchy, its organization and its kings and queens
www.CBS.nl
Facts and figures on the Netherlands
www.minbuza.nl/english
Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the policy of the Netherlands
www.coc.nl
Concise information of the Dutch gay association
www.IAmsterdam.com
Information on Amsterdam. Agenda with (free) activities, background information on the city.
www.everyculture.com/Ma-Ni/The-Netherlands.html
Lots of information and facts on the Netherlands, including history, geography and politics.