



Belgium & The Netherlands

Short-term Faculty-led Study Away Program • Spring Break 2014 • March 7-16, 2014

Course Name: **Local Governance, Religious Tolerance, and Social Policy in the Low Countries**

Course Numbers: **PLS 497, PLS 757, PLS 797**

Credit Hours: **3** undergraduate/graduate

Course Overview & Objectives:

1. Give students a background in government operations, religious tolerance, and social policy in the Low Countries (Netherlands and Belgium).
2. Allow students to make extensive comparisons to practices and policies commonly found in governments and regions throughout the United States and the rest of the world.
3. Prepare students to design and implement public policy based on ideas and designs that they would not be exposed to without this course.
4. Give students from Southwest Missouri a basic understanding of how foreign societies and cultures function.

Program Fee: \$2,500

Program Fee Includes: Round-trip airfare, accommodation, international student IDs, some meals, in-country ground transportation, tours and public excursion admission fees, and Study Away student fee.

Program Fee Excludes: Ground transportation in Springfield, passport, some meals, incidentals/misc personal expenses, and souvenirs. \$612/741 MSU tuition for 3 hours of undergraduate/graduate credit. Both Missouri residents and non-residents pay the MO resident per-credit-hour tuition rate, per University policy.

Applications are due by November 15, 2013. A nonrefundable deposit of \$375 will be billed to your student account. Please see Application & Payment Procedures for MSU and Visiting Students on reverse.

Scholarship Eligibility & Financial Aid
Students may apply for the College of Humanities and Public Affairs Study Away scholarship. Applications are due to the Study Away office by November 22, 2013. Please see the scholarship page on the Study Away website. Additionally, students who receive financial aid may apply aid to this program. Contact the Office of Financial Aid at 836-5262 for more information.

Informational Meeting:
October 17, 2013
5:15 p.m. STRO 300

Application Due:
November 15, 2013

Pre-Travel Meeting:
TBA

Depart Springfield:
March 7, 2014

Return to Springfield:
March 16, 2014

Post-Travel Meetings:
TBA

Interested in going?

Contact the Program Directors,

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417-836-6424

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417-836-8574

Course Schedule & Itinerary

Amsterdam is unique in two ways that are important to this class.

First, governmental arrangements are quite different from those found in the United States.

The municipal government of Amsterdam is divided into districts which have their own governing councils, while the city has one city council that rules on most of the larger issues. This government then operates within the Dutch federal system which in turn is part of the European Union.

Second, Amsterdam and the Netherlands have a history of political and religious tolerance that is being challenged by recent political developments. This will be compared to the Belgian model which is less tolerant and less diverse.

Third, both countries have to deal with environmental challenges from the North Sea and manmade challenges from war and occupation.

The political and economic status of immigrant minority groups in The Netherlands is a topic with particular resonance for US students. This is because, as seen in domestic American politics, the integration and acculturation of immigrant minorities has been a protracted and often-controversial process in The Netherlands. Indeed, one may be circumspect in even calling the often-inflammatory interactions between majority and minority political identity groups a "process" in most cases. After all, it is hardly clear that minority populations, and immigrant minority groups in particular, are making actual progress in achieving an improved political and economic reality within their nation of residence—be it the US or Holland.

The status of two immigrant minority groups is of particular salience in Dutch politics: Turkish and Moroccan Muslims. Both groups, the majority of which immigrated to The Netherlands during the 1960s to function as low-skill workers, have maintained tightly-enmeshed communities that now boast three distinct generations. As elements of social identity and self-categorization theories would expect, however, such coherence both enhances, and is enhanced by, tension along ingroup and outgroup, majority and minority boundaries. Central to this dynamic are questions pertaining to inter-group political mobility, economic improvement, educational access, gender norms, and, of course, religiosity and religious identity. At the same time, US students may find it ironic that The Netherlands, which enjoys a general reputation as a welcoming and permissive state, exhibits elements of ethnocentrism within large swaths of its general population. These identity politics tensions occur as the Dutch government struggles to balance its budget priorities against EU austerity guidelines and the public's

social program/service expectations—both combine to threaten the relative economic conditions of the so-called "native" Dutch, and raise the prospect of inter-group scapegoating for national fortunes.

STUDY TOUR

Dates and activities subject to change.

March 7, 2014: Depart Springfield for Brussels.

March 8, 2014: Arrive Brussels and travel to Bruges, Belgium. Take train and cab to housing with free time.

March 9, 2014: Visit Ypres Battlefield.

March 10, 2014: Local Government in Bruges and Belgium.

March 11, 2014: Islam and the Netherlands.

March 12, 2014: Religious Tolerance in the Netherlands.

March 13, 2014: National politics in the Netherlands. Visit Royal Palace, Parliament, & Peace Palace.

March 14, 2014: Local government and decentralization in the Netherlands.

March 15, 2014: Regulated tolerance (pros., drugs) and societal issues.

March 16, 2014: Depart for Springfield.

POST-TRAVEL CLASS MEETING

Focus group regarding program evaluation and recommendations, reflection on the experience.

Course Credit & Requirements

Grades in this course will be based on students' performance written assignments and on class participation. All grades are pass/fail. Graduate students must receive an overall grade of 80%, while undergraduates must receive an overall grade of 60% to pass the course. Assignments and grade weights are as follows:

Term Papers will be required of graduate students. These papers will be between 5 and 8 pages in length and give a more detailed perspective of one the issues covered in the seminar. No additional research is required. These will be due by April 15, 2014. Term papers will count as 33.33 % of the grade for graduate students.

Journals of the tour will be kept by both graduate and undergraduate students. These are to include daily entries regarding insights gained by the students and a conclusion covering the entire trip. Journals are due April 15, 2014. These will count as 50% of the grade for undergraduate and 33.33% of the grade for graduates.

Class participation is mandatory for all students and will count as 50% of the grade for undergraduate and 33.33% of the graduate students.

Required Text: *None required.*

Application & Payment Procedures

Missouri State University students and others who are approved by a Program Director may apply. Instructions are included on the program application.

MSU Students: A non-refundable deposit of **\$375** will be billed to your University account upon application (deadline Nov. 15, 2013). You will receive a second billing on Dec. 13, 2013 and a final billing on Jan. 24, 2014, for the balance of the program fee (\$2,125). MSU course tuition (\$612/741) will be billed to your University account and is due according to the university payment plan.

Visiting Students: A non-refundable deposit of **\$375** (check or money order) must accompany your application (deadline Nov. 15, 2013). A check or money order for the balance of the program fee (\$2,125) and MSU course tuition (\$612/741) will be due by Jan. 31, 2014.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY AWAY PROGRAM, THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE PROGRAM FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 21, 2014. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ONLINE OR AT THE BURSAR'S OFFICE. Estimated program fees are based on rates in effect on the publication date of this flyer and may be subject to change. Program participants agree to a potential increase of up to 10% if rates increase before or during travel.

Cancellation & Refund Policies

- Students who withdraw prior to Jan. 17, 2014 will receive a refund of fees paid, less the **\$375** deposit and any non-refundable purchases made on his/her behalf.
- If a student is forced to withdraw after Jan. 17, 2014 for a bona fide medical reason, s/he will receive a refund of fees paid, less the **\$375** deposit and expenses. A certificate of incapacitating illness or injury from a licensed physician is required.
- Students withdrawing voluntarily after Jan. 17, 2014, or withdrawing due to medical reasons not protected under the fees refund policy, receive no refund.
- Once the program has started, no refunds will be issued under any circumstances.
- All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing and sent to the Program Director and Director of Study Away Programs at the Study Away Office, Jim D. Morris Center, Suite 403. Non-payment of fees does not guarantee automatic withdrawal.