

Water Management and Sustainability in the Netherlands

April 2019

Semester: Summer 2019

Location: The Netherlands

Credits: 3

Instructor

Kristine Stepenuck, Ph.D.

Preferred name and pronouns: Kris, she, her, hers

Email: kstepenu@uvm.edu

Phone: 802-656-8504

Mobile Phone while in the Netherlands: 802-868-1048

Office: Aiken Center, 81 Carrigan Dr. Room 312F

Office Hours: By appointment

Required Texts

Vossestein, Jacob. (2015). *The Dutch and Their Delta*. XPat Scriptum Publishers.

Course Overview and Goals

This travel study course will allow students to explore water management and sustainability attitudes and techniques from the Dutch perspective. As the majority of the Netherlands lies below sea level, and with a population of 18 million, managing water and living sustainably is essential for public safety and a strong economy in the country. Students in this travel study course will learn from and engage in dialogue with Dutch professionals while exploring a variety of water management and sustainability projects to build their understanding of the interconnectedness between human activities and sustainability. Students will also engage in reading and develop reflections to enhance meaning of and interactions with professionals. The course encourages students to understand a variety of diverse perspectives related to water resources and sustainability.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand water resources issues faced by the Netherlands;
- Visualize a generalized historic timeline of, and the context for, human use and manipulation of water resources in the Netherlands;
- Understand and apply the concept of a “water footprint” and its application
- Understand and competently discuss sustainability in the Netherlands, including the multitude of dimensions and stakeholders involved, and the variety of potential outcomes of land and resource management decisions; and
- Compare and contrast water resources management and sustainability decisions and techniques between the Netherlands and other countries, especially the United States.

Sustainability Learning Outcomes

In addition, students will be able to:

- Have an informed conversation about the multiple dimensions and complexity of sustainability;
- Evaluate sustainability using an evidence-based disciplinary approach and integrate economic, ecological, and social perspectives;
- Think critically about sustainability across a diversity of cultural values and across multiple scales of relevance from local to global; and
- Recognize and assess how sustainability impacts your life and how your actions impact sustainability.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions, including two pre-trip gatherings, and the full multi-day bike tour travel study period.

Course Format

The course will primarily be carried out via a travel study via bicycle in the Netherlands. The planned itinerary follows. While on the trip, students' overnight gear will be moved via van. During the course, students will be asked to:

- Bicycle on a daily basis to water management and sustainability demonstration sites (*students requiring disability-related accommodation may travel via van) and to hotels, grocery stores and/or restaurants;
- Actively participate in site visits to a variety of Dutch water management and sustainability locations;
- Engage in dialogue about water management and sustainability with Dutch professionals, other students in the course, and instructors;
- Read scientific and popular articles and the course text book;
- Develop written reflections in the form of a daily journal; and
- Contribute to a class blog

Grading Criteria

Students grades will be based upon the following criteria:

70%	Participation in site visits to a variety of water resources and sustainability sites (see itinerary), including engaging in a dialogue with Dutch professionals
20%	Written daily journal reflections to assigned readings and activities
10%	Contributions to course blog, describing focus of the day's learning activity and linkage to sustainability aspect assigned that day

Grade Determination

Grades will be assigned based on average scores of reflections in conjunction with a participation grade as follows:

A+	100	D+	67 - 69
A	94 - 99	D	63 - 66
A-	90 - 93	D-	60 - 62
B+	87 - 89	F	< 60
B	83 - 86		
B-	80 - 82		
C+	77 - 79		
C	73 - 76		
C-	70 - 72		

Journal Rubric

Required components	Exemplary	Proficient	Basic	Limited	Uninvolved	Total Points
Thoughtful observations about the assigned question (if any) included	10 Thought provoking and carefully laid out observations	8 Solid observations	7 Basic observations	6 Lacking thoughtful observation or connection to course materials	0 Assignment not completed	
Sustainability aspect for that day identified and discussed	10 Unique and plausible ideas about sustainability	8 Plausible idea or ideas for sustainability shared	7 Unrealistic or poorly described ideas for sustainability shared	6 Sustainability not addressed	0 Assignment not completed	
Total score:						/20

Participation Rubric

Required components	Exemplary	Proficient	Basic	Limited	Uninvolved	Total Points
Student is present	35 Misses no days	32 Misses >0 but <1 day	28 Misses 1 day	24 Misses >1 to 3 days	0 Misses >3 days	
Student is engaged in and positively contributes to class dialogue	35 Engaged in and positively contributes to dialogue	32 Usually engaged in and positively contributes to dialogue	28 Sometimes engaged in and contributes to dialogue	24 Contributes very little to dialogue	0 Never engaged in dialogue	
Total score:						/70

UVM Resources and Policies

Department of Education and UVM's definition of a credit hour

The Department of Education defines a 3-credit course as averaging 3 hours of contact time (typically in class meeting time), and 6 hours of work outside of class per week. The University of Vermont follows this definition. This course was designed to meet this definition, though contact time is significantly more due to the nature of the course. In addition to site visits, lectures and discussions with professionals, and debrief dialogues, this course requires students to engage in outside reading, and in developing reflections and blog posts.

Student Learning Accommodations

In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact ACCESS, the office of Disability Services on campus. ACCESS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations via an accommodation letter to faculty with approved accommodations as early as possible each semester. All students are strongly encouraged to meet with their faculty to discuss the accommodations they plan to use in each course.

Contact ACCESS: A170 Living/Learning Center; 802-656-7753; access@uvm.edu; www.uvm.edu/access

UVM's policy on disability certification and student support: www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/disability.pdf

Religious Holidays

Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to me in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible to read, understand and adhere at all times to this policy that addresses plagiarism, fabrication, collusion, and cheating: <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf>

Grading

For information on grading and GPA calculation, go to: https://www.uvm.edu/registrar/?Page=gradesandtranscripts/g_grades.html&SM=g_menu.html

Grade Appeals

If you would like to contest a grade, please follow the procedures outlined in this policy: <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/gradeappeals.pdf>

Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/studentcode.pdf

FERPA Rights Disclosure

The purpose of this policy is to communicate the rights of students regarding access to, and privacy of their student educational records as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/ferpa.pdf>

Promoting Health & Safety

The University of Vermont's number one priority is to support a healthy and safe community:

Center for Health and Wellbeing: <http://www.uvm.edu/~chwb/>

Counseling & Psychiatry Services (CAPS): Phone: (802) 656-3340

C.A.R.E.: If you are concerned about a UVM community member or are concerned about a specific event, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students Office (802-656-3380). If you would like to remain anonymous, you can report your concerns online by visiting the Dean of Students website at:

https://www.uvm.edu/deanofstudents/student_advocacy/care_form