

Dutch Studies

DUTCH 170 – MULTICULTURALISM IN THE NETHERLANDS

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Spring 2010
Location:
Course Control Number:
Units/Credits: 3

Course Description

This course begins with a theoretical framework on immigration in Europe (week 1-4). Although the Netherlands is at the center of our attention, topics such as migration, integration, and cultural change are studied within a European context, with special attention to other Western European countries with a large immigrant populations such as Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom. In the second part of the course, a historical introduction on Dutch society follows (week 5-7). In this introduction, students learn how until the turn of the century, the Netherlands was widely seen as a progressive frontrunner in migration issues, priding itself on the alleged success of its “integration with preservation of one’s original culture”-policy. We also focus on the origin and “immigration history” of the different ethnic groups that arrived in the Netherlands after World War II (Dutch-Indonesians, Surinamese, Antilleans, South-Europeans, Moroccans, Turks, Iranians, Somali, etc.). We then study how the Netherlands went into a state of shock after the murder of the politician Pim Fortuyn (in 2002) and the film director Theo van Gogh (in 2004), who were known for their critical views regarding Islam (week 8). Subsequently, we focus on the debate on the future of the Netherlands that was caused by these murders (week 9-10). In this context, we first analyze the political and social context in which the killings of Fortuyn and van Gogh took place as well as how they affected society and the general perspective on multiculturalism. This context will be recreated on the basis of television news, reports and films, comments by authors, columnists, historians and politicians in newspapers, magazines and the Internet. The study of contemporary literature written by people who came to the Netherlands as asylum seekers, or by descendents of immigrants broadens and deepens the perspective on national, cultural and religious identity in the Netherlands and in Europe (week 11). After this broad historical, cultural and theoretical introduction, students will have a chance to interact with two prominent guests: Iranian-Dutch writer Kader Abdolah, as well as Dutch politician and writer Boris Dittrich (week 12-14), whose presence in class will allow us to reflect on the relevance of recent political policies by the EU related to discrimination based on sexual orientation as well as the treatment of asylum seekers.

Course Requirements

- No knowledge of Dutch language is required, all readings and discussions will be in English.
- This course is open for both undergraduate and graduate students. Graduate students will be given the opportunity to write a research paper.
- Students are expected to be fully prepared for every class, to have completed the required reading and to be ready to pose questions, try out ideas, listen to and challenge the ideas of others, and actively engage the material as a group. Students are particularly encouraged to participate in the discussions on the website for this course on bSpace. In the course of the semester, several questions will show up under the section “Forum”. Answering these questions is an important part of your course work. Your attendance, participation in class and posted comments on bSpace will have an important impact on your final grade.
- You will be required to write one essay as part of this course. This essay should be approximately 10 pages. Each student should write an essay on a different subject, dealing with a topic of this course. You should hand in the final version of your essay before the last week of classes. Later essays will not be accepted. The essay can be written in English or in Dutch. Dutch majors are encouraged to write the essay in Dutch.
- You will be required to do an in-class mid-term. You are allowed to make use of all your notes. You should take into consideration the following questions: What is the author’s argument in the quotation? What is at stake in this argument? How can we connect this argument with other problems that have been discussed in previous lessons? It is highly recommended to express a personal, critical opinion.

- You will be required to do a 3-hours exam for final. You are allowed to make use of all your notes. You should take into consideration the following questions: What is the author's argument in the quotation? What is at stake in this argument? How can we connect this argument with other problems that have been discussed in previous lessons? It is highly recommended to express a personal, critical opinion.
- The last three podium days of the semester will be converted to a Reading/Review/Recitation Period.
- Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Attendance and Participation	30%
Essay	15%
Mid-Term Test	15%
Final Essay	40%

Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the Cal Student Store:

- Ruud Koopmans: Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe (2005)
 Jan Nederveen Pieterse: Globalization and Culture (2003)
 Ian Buruma: Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance (2006)
 Ayaan Hirsi Ali The Caged Virgin (2006)
 Abdelkader Benali: Wedding by the Sea (2000)
 Kader Abdolah: My Father's Notebook (2007)
 Kader Abdolah: The House of the Mosque (2010)
 Hafid Bouazza: Abdullah's Feet (2000)

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introductions

Week 2-4: Theoretical introduction on immigration and citizenship in a European context, with special attention to the case of the Netherlands (Koopmans, Pieterse).

Week 5: Panorama of the Netherlands in the 1960s: The end of the traditional "pillarization" of society, the Netherlands as a frontrunner with regard to progressive policies (liberalization of soft drugs, same-sex marriage, euthanasia), the Dutch "polder-model".

Week 6: Immigrants in the Netherlands: 1) Immigrants from the former Dutch colonies, 2) former "guest-workers", 3) former and present asylum-seekers.

Week 7: The Dutch integration-policy since the 1960s: its achievements and failures.

Week 8: Pim Fortuyn and Theo van Gogh: their ideas, their actions and the circumstances of their killings.

Week 9-10: The debate about integration, multiculturalism, and the role of Islam in Europe after the killings of Fortuyn and van Gogh. We study and discuss the ideas and opinions of the following intellectuals: Ahmed Aboutaleb, Ehsan Jami, Geert Mak, Job Cohen, Paul Scheffer, Sylvain Ephimenco, Paul Cliteur, Leon de Winter, Nahed Selim, Dyab Abou Jahjah, Geert Wilders and Afshin Ellian. We also analyze and discuss two books on this topic: Ayaan Hirsi Ali's The Caged Virgin (2006) and Ian Buruma's Murder in Amsterdam (2006).

Week 11: We study the work of contemporary Dutch literature written by authors with an immigrant background: Hafid Bouazza's Abdullah's Feet (2000) and Abdelkader Benali's Wedding by the Sea (2000).

Week 12: Guest-lecturer Boris Dittrich: Special focus on the relationship between Homosexuality and Islam in the context of the EU commitment to the prevention and eradication of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Week 13: Guest-lecturer Kader Abdolah: Special focus on the European asylum policy, European integration policies in the context of the The Hague Program and the Aeneas Program.

Week 14: Guest-lecturer Kader Abdolah: Analysis of Kader Abdolah's novels: My Father's Notebook (2007) and The House of the Mosque (2009)

Week 15: Conclusions.