ECON 410/ECON 410G  
Economics Markets and the Low Countries: Sex, Drugs, Rocks, and Flowers

Amsterdam Summer Study Program  
Summer 2015

Dr. Daniel A. Myers

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**Prerequisites**.

Economics 202 and junior standing or permission of the instructor.

**Course Objectives**.

Students completing the course will (1) have a heightened awareness of markets and how they work; (2) better understand social legislation in the economic markets; (3) better understand how cultural difference affect international business; and (4) have a better understanding of the EU and how common currency and the free flow of labor affects the economies of Europe and the individual member countries.

This course is taught in Amsterdam allowing easy access to speakers and fieldtrips which will enhance the learning experience. It will also expose students to business and social environments with cultural differences.

**Resources**. A course pack will be available on Blackboard. This package will include a variety of readings dealing with the following topics: economic markets; economics of prostitution; the European Union and the Netherlands; diamond markets; economics of crime; economic impact of social legislation; and economics of drugs.

**A Blackboard page has been provided for this class. Grades and assignments will be posted there.**

**General Information, logistics, etc. This course is taught on site in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with trips to Brussels and Bruges, Belgium. Details regarding housing, transportation, meals, etc., are posted on the web site** <http://people.wku.edu/dan.myers/amsterdam2015/index.htm>**.**

**Student Expectations.** Students participating in this program are under the same rules and regulations as students who are taking courses on campus. Please review the Code of Student Conduct found in the WKU Student Handbook found at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>. We expect students to participate in all program activities, assignments, and classes and to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Should your behavior be deemed disruptive to the program, the directors reserve the right to dismiss you from both the program and the housing for the program and arrange for your immediate return to the US without refund. Any additional costs associated with dismissal will be the responsibility of the student.

**Course Requirements.**

**Your participating at all program functions is required.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Percent of grade** |
| **Pre-departure assignments** | **10** |
| **Participation** | **20** |
| **Journal/blog** | **20** |
| **On site quizzes and assignments** | **40** |
| **Reflection paper** | **10** |

**There will be a minimum of four pre-departure exercises. These are designed to provide students with some of the framework and background necessary to function in an international setting.**

**Participation in scheduled activities is extremely important in this program. You are expected to attend each of the activities and classes. Missing class or an activity will result in a significant reduction in your grade. Your behavior during class and during field trips should reflect positively on the group and on Western Kentucky University. Problems with attendance and/or behavior can result in a failing grade and/or dismissal from the program. Should your behavior in class or during scheduled activities be determined to be disruptive, the instructor reserves the right to issue a failing grade and dismiss the student from the program.**

**You will each be expected to complete a daily journal and/or blog. These should reflect your experiences while on the program. If you prepare a blog for this event, it should reflect positively on the program.**

**Readings for the program will be posted on Blackboard. You are encouraged to complete the readings prior to departure.**

**Students enrolled for graduate credit will complete an in-depth analysis of a sector of the Netherlands economy as part of the reflection paper.**

**Grades will be assigned as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percent** |
| **A** | **90 – 100** |
| **B** | **80 – 89.99** |
| **C** | **70 – 79.99** |
| **D** | **60 – 69.99** |
| **F** | **Below 60** |

**Academic Honesty**. You may work with another individual on out of class projects. If you corroborate with your peers on assignments each person should present an original copy of the assignment and each person in the group should identify the additional members of the group.

Suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in a manner consistent with the University policy stated in Hilltopics. Students should have a good understanding of plagiarism

**Students With Disabilities**. If you have a disability identified under the Americans With Disabilities Act or if you think you may have such a disability, you should notify the instructor when you apply for the class. Students with disabilities should also report such disabilities to Matt Davis, Coordinator of Student Disability Services, Downing University Center, 745-5004. Reasonable accommodation will be made.

Amsterdam 2015

# Tentative Itinerary

Week One

Wednesday, July 15

* Depart Nashville

Thursday, July 16

* Arrive Amsterdam Schiphol Airport
* Train from Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam Centrall Station
* Procure transportation passes
* Tram/Subway to apartments
* Check-in at apartments
* Exploration of area surrounding apartments
  + Review of expectations and emergency plan
* Tram tour of Amsterdam
* Group dinner at Saturnino
* Walking tour of Wallen

Friday, July 17

* Shopping (morning)
* Flea market
* Bike tour of Amsterdam (confirmed 15:30)
  + Lecture on economic, social, and cultural history of Amsterdam and the Netherlands

Saturday, July 18

* Shopping (morning)
* Canal tour of Amsterdam
  + Lecture on economic, social, and cultural history of Amsterdam and the Netherlands

Sunday, July 19

* Explore Amsterdam
* Vondelpark

Amsterdam 2015

Tentative Itinerary

Week Two

Monday, July 20

* Class in morning
* Projects in afternoon

Tuesday, July 21

* Rijksmuseum
* Prostitution Information Center (6:30 p.m. scheduled)
  + Lecture
  + Guided tour

Wednesday, July 22

* Class in morning

Thursday, July 23

* Anne Frank House (9:00 appointment confirmed)
* Dutch Resistance Museum (afternoon)

Friday, July 24

* Class in morning
* Free from noon until Monday Morning

Saturday – Sunday, July 25 - 26

* Free weekend for travel or to explore Amsterdam

Amsterdam 2013

Tentative Itinerary

Week Three

Monday, July 27

* Class in morning
* Hash, Hemp, and Marijuana Museum
* Hemp Works

Tuesday, July 28

* Travel to Bruges
* Explore Bruges
* Travel to Brussels
* Ibis Hotel off Grand Place
* Grasmarkt 100  
  Rue du Marché aux Herbes 100  
  1000 – BRUSSELS BELGIUM
* (+32)2/6200427 Fax :(+32)2/5145067

Wednesday, July 29

* Lecture at European Commission (10:00)
* Explore Brussels
* Travel to Amsterdam

Thursday, July 30

* Van Gough Museum
* Heroin Clinic and lecture (subject to change)

Friday, July 31

* Class in morning
* Free from noon until Monday Morning

Saturday – Sunday, August 1 - 2

* Free weekend for travel or to explore Amsterdam

Amsterdam 2013

Tentative Itinerary

Week Four

Monday, August 3

* Class in morning

Tuesday, August 4

* Flower Auction (EARLY morning departure; tour at 7:15 a.m.)
* Our Lord in the Attic (afternoon)

Wednesday, August 5

* Class

Thursday, August 6

* Rembrandt House
* Group lunch
* Pack for return to US

Friday, August 7

* Out of rooms and in front of residence at 7:00 a.m.
* Travel from Amsterdam to Nashville

Note: on class days and on field trip days, students will be expected to also be working on assignments. More specific information regarding how the field trips tie into the individual courses will be provided in the course information.