COURSE DETAIL

GOING DUTCH: LITERARY REFLECTIONS OF THE LOW COUNTRIES IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

Country
Netherlands

Host Institution
Maastricht University - Center for European Studies

Program(s)
Biological and Life Sciences,Psychology and Neuroscience,Public Health and Pre-Med,Biological and Life Sciences, Maastricht,Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Dutch Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number
112

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
GOING DUTCH: LITERARY REFLECTIONS OF THE LOW COUNTRIES IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

UCEAP Transcript Title
DUTCH & FLEMISH LIT

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

This course invites students to explore the history of the Netherlands and Belgium guided by literary texts reaching back to the seventeenth century and moving to the twentieth century (using English translations). From the fight for independence against Spanish oppression into the Golden Age of Dutch and Flemish culture when the Netherlands became a European superpower, through the changes of industrialization in the nineteenth century, on into the twentieth century with Modernism, Fascism, the German occupation in World War II and the ensuing times of the Cold War. The selected texts for this class, written by leading Dutch and Flemish authors and recognized as being part of World Literature, provide an authentic view of the history and culture of the “low countries” within the European context. Starting with Vondel and his dramatized discussion of cultural and religious struggles in the seventeenth century, followed by a portrait of Holland in the nineteenth century, the literary journey reaches the realms of decadence at the turn of the century. The turbulent events of the twentieth century and the effect they had on the “low countries” is then explored from Dutch and Flemish perspectives, including comic book-art, a movie viewing, the depiction of the Maastricht region in fiction and vice versa views from the United States with Williams Carlos Williams and Joseph Heller. Artistic concepts and writing styles from Symbolism to Post-modernism are central elements of the class discussion, together with the continuing presence of the Dutch and Flemish past. The class comes with a day-long academic field trip to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bruges in Belgium, exploring and tasting one of the European capitals of Decadence.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
LIT2005

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Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty Center for European Studies
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed

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