UCLouvain

Igeo1381a

2024

Belgium geography - Landscape diversity of Flanders and Brussels

3.00 credits	30.0 h + 30.0 h	Q1 and Q2

This biannual learning is being organized in 2024-2025

Teacher(s)	Vanacker Veerle ;Vanwambeke Sophie ;				
Language :	French > English-friendly				
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve				
Prerequisites	Introductory course in human and physical geography, such as LGEO1221 and LGEO111, or other equivalent course for exchange students in geography. Exchange students should contact the lecturers before the start of the semester to guarantee their participation in the field excursions.				
Main themes	The course allows students to discover the diversity of landscapes in Belgium, and more particularly the natural and historical landscape structure of Flanders and urban landscapes of Brussels. The course aims to introduce recent scientific debates in integrated landscape planning.				
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to: This teaching unit aims to stimulate the observation, identification and analysis of geographical features in the field. The competences that will be developed in this course are: Know-how: -Capacity to use common geographic tools and methods to collect field observations -Capacity to read and understand landscape structures, and their components based on field observations Expertise: -Understand and use the correct terminology of the discipline in debates and discussions in the field -Identify, analyse and synthetise landscape structure and its different components (geology, geomorphology, land use and land cover, and urban structures) -Develop a scientific question on a pertinent geographic theme				
Evaluation methods	The evaluation is based on the following components: 1_Preparation of a project on the historical evolution of the landscape over the last centuries, using historical maps of Belgium, aerial photographs and satellite images, and reference materials on the geography of Belgium that is available at the BST. The project will be realized in groups of 2 to 3 students, and each project will cover a different location (Court-Saint-Etienne, Rixensart, Campine region, Ghent). Students need to submit the supporting material on Moodle at least one week before the excursion. 2_Presentation of the project (15') in the field. The presentation needs to include an analysis of the main changes in the landscape, and needs to be enriched by what was discussed during the day of the excursion. 3_Field book, including sketches and notes made during the excursions, sorted and cleaned up and handed back to the teachers within a week of the excursion. This stands as the report. 4_Active and constructive participation during the field activities, and the debates with the team of teachers and interlocutors in the field. The final grade is calculated based on the quality of the group work (30%), the supporting materials (20%), participation during the field activities (30%), and the quality of the notes and sketches in the field book (20%).				
Teaching methods	Biennial field excursion organized for the students of the additionnal module in Geography on 'global change and transition management'. The excursions in Flanders and Brussels are organized in the first and second quadrimester of the academic years 2024-2025, 2026-2027, The field days allow to discover the diversity of rural and urban landscapes in the northern part of Belgium. The excursions require an active participation of the students, which implies making sketches, taking notes and photographs, measuring environmental variables in the field, and taking interviews with actors and stakeholders.				
Content	The course comprises several days of field excursion, including the geography of the Belgian Coast, Campine Region, and the urban and periurban geography of Ghent and Brussels.				
Inline resources	All material is available on the Moodle page of the course, or via DIAL.				
Bibliography	Demoulin, A. (2018). Landscapes and Landforms of Belgium and Luxembourg. Cham Springer International Publishing. Livre électronique (eBook). e-ISBN: 9783319582399. Disponible via DIAL: http://hdl.handle.net/2078/ebook:123606				

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Other infos	Active in-person participation during the field excursions and related activities is mandatory to pass the course. An absence needs to be justified asap by a medical certificate. The excursions are organized biennially, and it is not possible to redo them in the second session, or in the next year.
Faculty or entity in charge	GEOG

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)							
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes			
Additionnal module in Geography: global change and transition management	APPGEO	3		Q			