

RBSITN01K Inventing the Nation. Nation-Building and National Identity in Europe

Course module	RBSITN01K
Credits (ECTS)	2
Category	SG (Student-driven track)
Course type	Elective at hogeschool level
Language of instruction	English
Offered by	Hogeschoolbrede keuzevakken;
Contact person	S.L.R. de Roode
Telephone	-
E-mail	s.l.r.de.roode@hr.nl
Lecturer	S. de Roode

Aim

Doing business with people from various cultural backgrounds is highly demanding. Entrepreneurs and managers in the international economy must be able to adapt to different situations swiftly. They must be capable of empathic anticipation of their business partners' notions, feelings and needs which are partly determined by their cultural background. Such sensitivity is not just a natural gift that some of us have and others not. Corresponding sensitivity can be learned and trained. One crucial condition to developing these skills is the gathering of cultural background knowledge about national images and nation-building processes in the respective country.

Images are systems of convictions, attitudes, values, and opinions, which structure human perception and steer it selectively. The emergence of images is significantly influenced by country-specific public remembrance and traditions. The shape of national self-images is decisively influenced by the demarcation of national Others, Germany e.g., has been an important national Other for all its neighboring countries. Images are significantly influenced by the geographical position and borders of a country – think of Britain whose island position was and is crucial for national self-imaginings. A sense of distinct national Otherness is crucially shaped by the perception and remembrance of a common history. This history is represented by cultural places of memory, such as myths, songs, dance, theatre, proverbs, texts, pictures, statues, sculptures, monuments, memorials and museums. Places of memory include the remembrance of significant events such as wars – think of the Second World War as an important example for all European nations. Ideas of national Otherness are often connected to notions of a specific national character – think of Dutch soberness. Images correspond to country specific political cultures. They are of crucial significance for international relations, communication and business.

This course aims at introducing students to the ways in which national images of the Self and the Other were and are constituted in 19th and 20th century Europe up to the present, thereby providing cultural background knowledge about various European countries such as e.g. Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, and Russia (actual sample depends on students' preferences). Students will gather knowledge about the constitution of national self-images and images of the national Other in these countries. The comparison of these countries will reveal differences, similarities, overlaps, and parallels of dominant national self-images and show that the different cases represent country-specific mouldings of European cultural and

political phenomena.

Content

Are you ready for business? Can you analyze your business partners' actions in a broader cultural setting? You are going to be an entrepreneur or manager in an international environment. Doing business with people from various cultural backgrounds is highly demanding. Entrepreneurs and managers in the international economy must be able to adapt to different situations swiftly. They must be capable of empathic anticipation of their business partners' notions, feelings and needs. These feelings and ideas are partly determined by the cultural background of your business partners. Being sensitive to cultural differences is not just a natural gift that some of us have and others not. Corresponding sensitivity can be learned and trained. One crucial condition to developing these skills is the gathering of cultural background knowledge about national images and nation-building processes in the respective country. This course aims at providing such cultural background knowledge about various European countries such as e.g. Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, and Russia – the ultimate selection of countries depends on your preferences.

This course will meet all criteria as formulated in the Dublin descriptors

ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- Reading materials
- Theoretical insights communicated by the lecturer
- Insights obtained during the preparation of the assignments (team presentation and collective report)

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- Preparing a (part of a) presentation as a member of a team
- writing part of a an essay as a member of a team

MAKING INFORMED JUDGEMENTS AND CHOICES

- Preparing weekly questions based on the reading materials
- Discussing priorities in the framework of the preparation of the team presentation/essay

COMMUNICATING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- contributing to and giving/submitting a team presentation and a jointly written essay

CAPACITIES TO CONTINUE LEARNING

- participation in the course will improve the general analytical skills of the students and develop their general ability of text interpretation

Information for the student:

Inventing the Nation. Nation-Building and National Identity in Europe

WEEK 1

- introduction: scope and relevance of the overall topic, clarification and distribution of the assignments, group-formation
- nation-building and national self-images: introductory lecture on the theoretical background of the topic, part 1 (de Roode)

WEEK 2

- nation-building and national self-images: introductory lecture on the theoretical background of the topic, part 2 (de Roode)

WEEK 3

- example: national self-images in Germany, England, and the Netherlands: a comparison (de Roode)

WEEK 4 through 7

- presentations by students of country cases (assigned in week 1)

WEEK 8

- presentation of last country case
- submitting of essays
- evaluation of course

The weekly sessions from week 2 and 3 will have the following structure:

lecture: 45 minutes

break: 5 minutes

lecture: 20 minutes

questions/discussion of lecture and reading material: 30 minutes

The weekly sessions from week 4 through 7 will have the following structure:

group presentation: 25 minutes

discussion based on presentation and reading material: 10 minutes

break 5 minutes

group presentation: 25 minutes

discussion based on presentation and reading material: 10 minutes

tutorial/helping students with their assignment: 15 minutes

Exam:

group presentation and essay on the respective case (country/nation)

requirements:

- each participant is expected to give a presentation of at least 3-5 minutes and refer explicitly to the reading materials or topics dealt with in the course
- each individual presentation should be innovative in providing examples that support the analytical claim(s)
- each individual presentation should be a logically fitting component within the group presentation
- the group will write an essay based on the presentation – aim is submission of a coherent piece of writing, clearly structured and complying to academic norms (e.g. of quotation, references)
- This final report should contain at least 4.000 words (approx. 10 pages full-text, 3 pages per student)
- Each participant will be graded for both the group presentation (30% - individual grades) and the final report (60% - individual grades: comments will be given in writing and students have the opportunity to make appointments for further clarification); as well as presence (10%)

Literature:

Selected chapters from De Roode: Seeing Europe through the Nation for all students. Country specific literature will be recommended according to selected countries. De Roode has a rather broad range of literature at his immediate disposal and can give specific recommendations for almost all European countries. Students will also (learn how to) search literature themselves.

