

Discover (the) Dutch: language and culture

Semester in Amsterdam / 2019-2020 / semester I

Course dates	3 September – 17 December 2019	
No classes	22 October	
Course length	16 weeks	
Time table	- 15 language classes once a week in the evenings (Tuesday or Wednesday) - 6 workshops on Dutch culture including excursions (Thursday)	
Assignments	A minimum of 4 hours per week	
Exam	A language exam (Dutch) and a presentation (culture)	
ECTS points	6 ECTS (passing grade 5,5 (55 %) and attendance requirement 80%) <i>You will receive a certificate at the end of the course, including ECTS points and grade.</i>	
Teachers	Dutch: Jet Keppler	Culture: Wim Manuhutu Excursions: Christiaan van Veen
Course coordinator	Christiaan van Veen	a.l.c.van.veen@vu.nl
Contact	VU-NT2 Dutch as a second language: vu-nt2@vu.nl	
<i>Included</i> course material	Dutch: <i>Code+ Takenboek deel 1</i> Culture: <i>reader/articles 'Discovering the Dutch - on culture and society of the Netherlands'</i> <i>These books are included and will be handed out during the first class</i>	

Who should join this course and why?

Are you (temporarily) working or studying in The Netherlands? It is interesting, useful and fun to learn to speak Dutch at a basic level and to learn about Dutch culture and society. Is being able to speak Dutch not a necessity for your work or study, but would you like to have conversations with Dutch relatives or friends, be able to shop and order a beer or a coke? And are you interested in the Dutch culture and society? Join our practical, non-intensive evening course '*Discover (the) Dutch*'. Within 16 weeks you will learn to use and understand the basics of Dutch language. In short, Dutch for everyday purposes. You will also acquire some basic understanding about Dutch history and culture and how the Dutch perceive themselves.

Learning objectives

In the course '*Discover (the) Dutch: Dutch Language and Culture*', you will learn to speak and understand the Dutch language at a basic level, CEFR A1. At the end of this course you will be able to join a basic conversation, using general expressions and basic sentences. For example, you will be able to meet and greet in Dutch, order a meal or a drink in the campus pub, go shopping, say whether you like something or someone, which you can practice in real life! In short, within 16 weeks you will learn to use and understand Dutch for everyday purposes.

The cultural part of the course will allow you to learn about the Dutch and their culture within an international context. Besides the essentials of Dutch history and culture, you will discover recurrent themes in Dutch history and find out how the natural environment shaped Dutch society and vice versa.

Method and course content

In the course *'Discover (the) Dutch'* you will learn to speak and understand the Dutch language at a basic level (Common European Framework of Reference CEFR level A1). The course is very interactive in nature. Part of the lessons will take place in our digital language lab. You will work on your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, including vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar. During classes you will use video, audio and computer software. And of course, you will practice a lot in small groups, which is a fun and effective way to try your newly learnt sentences. At home you prepare for the classes online, to ensure you know the vocabulary needed to perform the tasks in class. After class you practice online what you discovered in class. NT2 (DSL)¹ lecturers teach our language classes and will personally guide you through the programme.

'Discover (the) Dutch' is not only a language course, however. You will also learn about Dutch culture and society. In this part of the course you will explore some of the highlights of Dutch history and culture: what was so special about that famous Dutch *'Golden Age'* and have the Dutch really always battled against the water? We will also discuss the stereotypes that exist about the Netherlands and Dutch culture and place them within a historical context. Some of the stereotypes you may have had before starting the course, considering the tolerant and liberal attitude towards drugs, sexuality and immigration in the Netherlands, might be in need of some serious reevaluation afterwards! Part of the course is a visit to the famous *Rijksmuseum*, located in the city centre, the *Amsterdam Museum* and the *FOAM Photo Museum*.

Required level of education

Anyone who has completed secondary education (comparable to Dutch havo/vwo in the Netherlands) is welcome. If you don't speak any Dutch at all, some knowledge of the English language (A1 level) is necessary.

Passing grade

The grade for this course is based on the final Dutch language test, consisting of 3 parts:

- Writing
- Listening
- Reading

You will be granted a grade in the scale 1-10; passing grade is 5,5.

Passing the test will allow you to start in the second level of our evening classes.

How is the amount of ECTS-credits calculated?

Students who will be rewarded their 6 ECTS-credits will:

- have an attendance of at least 80%
- have done at least 80% of the homework
- pass four out of five Dutch language tests at A1: Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking, Vocabulary.
- have given an adequate presentation about Dutch culture (in English)
- do the (fun) test Dutch culture

¹ NT2: Nederlands als tweede taal = DSL: Dutch as a second language

Course outline

Location: Dutch HG-10A28 (VU Main Building, 10th Floor, A wing)
Culture HG-15A33 (VU Main Building, 15th Floor, A wing)

week	day	date	Time	N/C	Onderwerp
1	Tuesday	3 September	18.30-21.00	NL1	Introduction to the course
					Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?' (Introduce yourself)
2	Tuesday	10 Sep	18.30-21.00	NL2	Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?'
	Thursday	12 Sep	18.30-21.00	C1*	
3	Tuesday	17 Sep	18.30-21.00	NL3	Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?'
					Chapter 2: 'Te laat!' (Time)
4	Tuesday	24 Sep	18.30-21.00	NL4	Chapter 2 'Te laat!'
5	Tuesday	1 October	18.30-21.00	NL5	Chapter 2 'Te laat!'
					Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?' (Eating and drinking)
	Thursday	3 Oct	18.30-21.00	C2*	
6	Tuesday	8 Oct	18.30-21.00	NL6	Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?'
7	Tuesday	15 Oct	18.30-21.00	NL7	Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?'
					Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen' (Living)
8	No class	22 Oct	No class	No class	No class
9	Tuesday	29 Oct	18.30-21.00	NL8	Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen'
10	Tuesday	5 November	18.30-21.00	NL9	Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen' Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam' (Traveling)
11	Tuesday	12 Nov	18.30-21.00	NL10	Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam'
12	Tuesday	19 Nov	18.30-21.00	NL11	Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam' Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!' (Clothes and appearance)
13	Tuesday	26 Nov	18.30-21.00	NL12	Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!'
	Thursday	28 Nov	18:30–21:00	C3*	
14	Tuesday	3 December	18.30-21.00	NL13	Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit' Chapter 7: 'Wat gaan we doen?' (Going out)
15	Tuesday	10 Dec	18.30-21.00	NL14	Chapter 7: 'Wat gaan we doen?'
16	Tuesday	17 Dec	18.30-21.00	NL15	Final test Dutch (CEFR A1)

C*: The subjects of the culture classes will be announced later. The dates of the culture excursions will be discussed with the group(s).