

Discover (the) Dutch: language and culture

Semester in Amsterdam / 2016-2017 Semester 2

Course dates	6 February – 23 May 2017
No classes	27-31 March 2017 (<i>exam week VU</i>)
Course length	15 weeks
Time table	- 15 language classes once a week in the evenings - Five workshops on Dutch culture including an excursion
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	Anika Burggraaff (Dutch): a.h.burggraaff@vu.nl Wim Manuhutu (Culture): w.manuhutu@manu2u.com
Included course material	Dutch: <i>CODE Plus cursistpakket deel 1; 0-A1 (ISBN: 9789006815153)</i> Culture: <i>reader/articles 'Discovering the Dutch - on culture and society of the Netherlands'</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 15 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.

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.

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

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.

Course outline²

Dutch on Tuesday (15x); Culture on Thursday (5x)

Class times: 6-9 pm (or starting at 6.15 pm)

Week	Day	Dates	Subject	Theme	Location
1	Tuesday	7 Feb 2017	Dutch 1	Introduction to the course	
				Chapter 1: ‘Wie ben jij?’ (<i>Introduce yourself</i>)	
	Thursday	9 Feb 2017	Culture 1	General introduction to the Netherlands now	
				(Introductory chapter of the book ‘Discovering the Dutch’)	
				Main themes in Dutch history and culture	

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

² A more detailed course outline will be provided in the first lesson.

2	Tuesday	14 Feb 2017	Dutch 2	Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?'	
3	Tuesday	21 Feb 2017	Dutch 3	Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?'	
				Chapter 2: 'Te laat!' (<i>Time</i>)	
	Thursday	23 Feb 2017	Culture 2	The Netherlands: small country, large empire (Chapter 10 of Discovering the Dutch)	
4	Tuesday	28 Feb 2017	Dutch 4	Chapter 2 'Te laat!'	
5	Tuesday	7 Mar 2017	Dutch 5	Chapter 2 'Te laat'	
				Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?' (<i>Eating and drinking</i>)	
	Thursday	9 Mar 2017	Culture 3	The Netherlands and World War II: Beyond Anne Frank (Chapter 11 of Discovering the Dutch)	
6	Tuesday	14 Mar 2017	Dutch 6	Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?'	
7	Tuesday	21 Mar 2017	Dutch 7	Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?'	
				Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen' (<i>Living</i>)	
-	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>
8	Tuesday	4 Apr 2017	Dutch 8	Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen'	
9	Tuesday	11 Apr 2017	Dutch 9	Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen'	
				Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam' (<i>Traveling</i>)	
10	Tuesday	18 Apr 2017	Dutch 10	Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam'	
11	Tuesday	25 Apr 2017	Dutch 11	Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam'	
				Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!' (<i>Clothes and appearance</i>)	
12	Tuesday	2 May 2017	Dutch 12	Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!'	
13	Tuesday	9 May 2017	Dutch 13	Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!'	
				Chapter 7: 'Wat gaan we doen?' (<i>Going out</i>)	
	Thursday	11 May 2017	Culture 4	The Netherlands now : Tolerance and permissiveness; pragmatism and ideology; Dutch identity politics (Chapter 24 of Discovering the Dutch)	
14	Tuesday	16 May 2017	Dutch 14	Chapter 7: 'Wat gaan we doen?'	
	Thursday	18 May 2017	Culture 5	The inburgeringsquiz	
15	Tuesday	23 May 2017	Dutch 15	Final test Dutch (CEFR A1)	

Excursions (date will be discussed with the group):

- Visit to the Rijksmuseum (Chapter 13 of Discovering the Dutch)
- Second excursion, theme to be announced (Dam square?)