

## Discover (the) Dutch: language and culture

Semester in Amsterdam / 2022-2023 / semester I

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Course dates             | 6 September 2022 – 13 December 2022  |  |
| No classes               | Not applicable   |  |
| Course length            | 15 weeks   |  |
| Time table               | - 15 language classes once a week in the evenings (Tuesdays)<br>- 3-4 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%)<br><i>You will receive a certificate at the end of the course, including ECTS points and grade.</i> |  |
| Teachers                 |  |  |
| Contact                  | VU-NT2 Dutch as a second language: <a href="mailto:vu-nt2@vu.nl">vu-nt2@vu.nl</a>  |  |
| Included course material | Dutch: <i>Code+ Takenboek deel 1</i><br>Culture: -<br><br><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 15 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)<sup>1</sup> 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!

## 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 (A2 level) is necessary.

## Passing grade

The grade for this course is based on the final Dutch language test, consisting of 5 parts:

- Writing (10 points)
- Listening (10 points)
- Reading (10 points)
- Vocabulary (10 points)
- Culture (10 points)

Speaking will be evaluated on active participation during the classes and will lead to a *pass* or *fail* result. This result doesn't influence the final grade, but will be printed on the certificate. For the final grade you will be granted a grade in the scale 1-10; passing grade is 5,5 (=D).

Passing the test will allow you to start in the second level of our evening classes, level 1.2.

## 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%: you can be late at or miss 3 out of 15 classes (being late more than 15 minutes is counted as absent) and
  - have done at least 80% of the homework (book, online and writing assignments in Dutch and / or English) and
  - pass for the Dutch language tests at A1:
    - The language test contains the following skills: *Reading, Listening, Writing, Vocabulary* (test method will be explained during the course);
    - You will be granted a grade in the scale 1-10; passing grade is 5.5 (the calculation of the Dutch grade to an American grade will be done by International Office)
- and

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<sup>1</sup> NT2: Nederlands als tweede taal = DSL: Dutch as a second language

- pass for the culture part of the course by:
  - making exercises per culture class (5 points in total) *and*
  - giving an adequate presentation & pitch about the Dutch culture (in English) (5 points)
    - adequate meaning: PowerPoint / Prezi / ... of at least 5 – 8 minutes in English, featuring highlights of Amsterdam / Dutch culture & two museums you visited. At least 10 self-taken pictures will have to be illustrated with at least 2 Dutch words each.

Certificate:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Attendance:     | pass / fail   |
| Homework:       | pass / fail   |
| Language tests: | grade (passing grade: 5,5)  |
| Culture:        | X points out of 10 (part of the final grade)<br>Final presentation is mandatory |

## Course outline

Location: Dutch (N) **to be announced**  
 Culture (C) **to be announced**

| week | day      | date    | Time            | N/C       | Subject / Onderwerp   |
|------|----------|---------|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 1    | Tuesday  | 6 Sept  | 18.00-20.30     | NL1       | Introduction to the course<br>Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?' (Introduce yourself)                        |
| 2    | Tuesday  | 13 Sept | 18.00-20.30     | NL2       | Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?'   |
| 3    | Tuesday  | 20 Sept | 18.00-20.30     | NL3       | Chapter 1: 'Wie ben jij?'<br>Chapter 2: 'Te laat!' (Time)   |
| 4    | Tuesday  | 27 Sept | 18.00-20.30     | NL4       | Chapter 2 'Te laat!'  |
| 5    | Tuesday  | 4 Oct   | 18.00-20.30     | NL5       | Chapter 2 'Te laat!'<br>Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?' (Eating and drinking)                    |
|      | Thursday | 6 Oct   | 18.00-20.30     | C1*       |   |
| 6    | Tuesday  | 11 Oct  | 18.00-20.30     | NL6       | Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?'  |
| 7    | Tuesday  | 18 Oct  | 18.00-20.30     | NL7       | Chapter 3: 'Wat eten we vanavond?'<br>Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen' (Living)                       |
| 8    | Tuesday  | 25 Oct  | 18.00-20.30     | NL8       | Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen'  |
|      | Thursday | 27 Oct  | 18.00-20.30     | C2*       |   |
| 9    | Tuesday  | 1 Nov   | 18.00-20.30     | NL9       | Chapter 4: 'We gaan verhuizen'<br>Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam' (Traveling)                    |
| 10   | Tuesday  | 8 Nov   | 18.00-20.30     | NL10      | Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam'  |
| 11   | Tuesday  | 15 Nov  | 18.00-20.30     | NL11      | Chapter 5: 'Op weg naar Rotterdam'<br>Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!' (Clothes and appearance) |
|      | Thursday | 17 Nov  | To be announced | excursion | Museum visit  |
| 12   | Tuesday  | 22 Nov  | 18.00-20.30     | NL12      | Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!'  |
| 13   | Tuesday  | 29 Nov  | 18.00-20.30     | NL13      | Chapter 6: 'Wat zie je er leuk uit!'<br>Chapter 7: 'Wat gaan we doen?' (Going out)                  |
| 14   | Tuesday  | 6 Dec   | 18.00-20.30     | NL14      | Chapter 7: 'Wat gaan we doen?'  |
|      | Thursday | 8 Dec   | 18.00-20.30     | C3*       |   |
| 15   | Tuesday  | 13 Dec  | 18.00-20.30     | NL15      | Final test Dutch (CEFR A1)  |

C\*: The subjects of the culture classes will be announced later.