



## **Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit**

**Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2020-2021**

## Language Change

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Course Code         | L_ETBACIW303          |
| Credits             | 6                     |
| Period              | P4                    |
| Course Level        | 300                   |
| Language Of Tuition | English               |
| Faculty             | Faculty of Humanities |
| Course Coordinator  | dr. G.A. Dreschler    |
| Examiner            | dr. G.A. Dreschler    |
| Teaching Staff      | dr. G.A. Dreschler    |
| Teaching method(s)  |                       |

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### Course Objective

After following this course, you have insight to the main mechanisms of language change in English and can name some common causes for language change. You can explain arguments and counterarguments in the debate on whether language change is good or bad.

### Course Content

Because awesome. Instagrammable. Mood. Language changes constantly. This is most obvious in changes in the meaning of words, but grammatical structures and pronunciation change too. A particularly interesting aspect of language change is that people often have very strong opinions about it, especially those trying to stop language from changing. But as we will see in the course, language change is a natural phenomenon, present in all stages of languages. In this course, we will go through different aspects of language – e.g. syntax, vocabulary, phonology, morphology – and discuss the types of change that has occurred in each particular area. In the course, we will focus on changes in English, but we will also draw some parallels with mechanisms and types of changes in other languages.

### Teaching Methods

Tutorials. Schedule to be agreed with the instructor.

### Method of Assessment

Oral exam (50%) and written paper (50%).

### Target Audience

This course is open for third-year students doing the CIS track English Language and Communication Studies.

**Recommended background knowledge**

Students must have passed all courses of the second year.