

## Vesalius College

### Course description

**Course title:** Intermediate Dutch I

**Course code:** LDU 103 / LDU 103E

**Teacher responsible:** Jan Walravens, Professor

**Course description:**

About half of each period of three hours will be spent on one lesson from the book. These are the subjects that will be discussed: *Uitgaan, Het weer, Het nieuws, Buren, Vrienden, Relaties, Taal, Werk*.

First, students listen to the professor reading the text to become familiar with the correct *pronunciation* and the meaning of the words used. Then, they will read the text out loud; pronunciation will be corrected.

Secondly, the exercises following the text will be done; they always concern *grammar, vocabulary, speaking, writing* and *listening*. Students first prepare each exercise at their own pace; then, each exercise is corrected collectively.

Occasionally, students will be asked to write a summary of one of the lessons; this can be an assignment to be done at home or in class. Alternatively, a writing assignment from the book (e.g. writing a letter) will be done (again, at home or in class). For home assignments, the use of dictionaries and other written or electronic sources is allowed.

On the average, there will be 4 such assignments before the midterm exam and 3 afterwards.

The second half of each period will be devoted to the *individual reader* of the students. Every week students must be ready (even though they may not be called upon) to present a short article (selected from a Dutch or Flemish newspaper) in front of the class. Each article must also be summarised (5 to 10 lines) in writing and the new vocabulary should be listed with its translation in English. At the end of the semester, students will have composed their own *reader* of 14 texts (i.e. one per week).

Each week the summary will be corrected by the professor.

**Course objectives:**

Elementary Dutch language skills are elaborated in this course. Major points of Dutch grammar are systematically reviewed.

A variety of texts (cf. handbook) are used to improve **listening comprehension, speaking, reading** and **writing** skills and increase **lexical knowledge**.

Most of the texts discussed shed light on one or several aspects of Dutch culture and life in the Netherlands in general.

At the end of the sequence (LDU 103 and LDU 104), students can express themselves fairly fluently in speech and writing on a wide variety of (topical) issues.

They will also have gained some insight into the cultural background of the Low Countries.

Finally, they will have been trained in 'Reading Survival Skills' that should give them a maximum of 'reader autonomy' in Dutch.

**Grade weighting scheme:**

There are three components:

PERMANENT EVALUATION: attendance; participation in exercises, discussions; summary writing; presentation of the *individual reader*; oral language skills (pronunciation, fluency, grammatical correctness, etc.) will be judged on a permanent basis

Before the midterm exam, 20% of the in-class participation grade component will be attributed (10% for oral skills and 10% for assignments, individual reader, participation, punctuality).

The remaining 20% will be given at the end of the semester, on the same basis.

MIDTERM: exercises from the handbook (only a written test)

FINAL: exercises from the handbook (only a written test)

All written assignments must be handed in person, paper version!

Late hand-ins are NOT accepted!

**Grading:**

The final grade for this course is composed as follows:

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| A. Permanent evaluation | <b>40%</b> |
| B. Midterm exam         | <b>30%</b> |
| C. Final exam           | <b>30%</b> |

**Used course material (handbooks, readers, readings, newspapers, magazines) and references:**

E. HAM, *HELP!2. Helpt u mij even?*

Nederlands Centrum Buitenlanders. ISBN 90 5517 131 X