

Course Syllabus LDU 101

Elementary Dutch I

Number of ECTS credits: 6

Contact Details

Tel: +32 2 614 21 87

E-mail: Kathleen Caenen, kcaenen@vub.ac.be

Course Description and Course Methodology

This course is an absolute beginner's course, conform to the CEF Common European Framework for Languages, entrance level A1 and exit level A2.

Students acquire an elementary knowledge of the Dutch language, and will be able to communicate autonomously very quickly. Basic communication skills will be exercised by reading short dialogues and small texts. Phrase structures and vocabulary will be practiced with the instructor and in small groups. Students will also work on small simple written texts.

Students who have any prior Dutch knowledge will be given other exercises and assignments.

Course Prerequisites

Knowledge of general grammatical concepts and terminology.

Learning Objectives

After this course, students will have the following skills, and should be able to:

- Understand basic communication and be able to participate in everyday basic conversations.
- Know the basic grammar and basic vocabulary to manage living in a Dutch speaking environment.
- Read and understand basic Dutch texts and compose simple written work.
- Feel confident while speaking Dutch in front of their peers.
- Gain insight into and knowledge about Dutch speaking countries in Europe and their culture.

To enable students to produce correct written and oral language, the following grammatical material will be taught:

- telwoorden
- voornaamwoorden
- lidwoorden

- verbum presens
- interrogatief
- hulpwerkwoorden
- elementaire syntaxis,
- negatie niet/geen
- regelmatige pluralis
- pronomens possessivum

Course schedule

Classes will be taught in Dutch progressively from the beginning and every student is expected to produce Dutch phrases to his ability during classes. Gaining confidence while speaking is far more important than worrying about the mistakes you might make.

Classes will be taught twice a week, the first session is devoted to learning and understanding new theory, new grammar or new vocabulary skills. In this session, we will use the handbook “Help 1”. Students will need to prepare this session in advance by reading at home. You can also use the “Hulpboek Engels” specially designed to offer background to English native speakers. This “Hulpboek Engels” has vocabulary lists and grammatical explanations in English. The book is available from the instructor upon request, as it is quite expensive and therefore not compulsory.

The second class session will be devoted to both exercises and practical Dutch in use, be it reading, writing, speaking.... Students have to prepare these sessions in advance, making the designated exercises in the book.

A few class sessions will also be spent learning more about and discussing diverse cultural, sociological and political elements from both Flanders and the Netherlands. To keep up with the day to day news from Flanders in English, take a free subscription on the “*Flanders Today*” weekly (www.flanderstoday.eu). Check out this website for more information. This magazine can also be found at reception.

Changes to the class calendar will occur in function of the level and progression of the students.

		First class session	Second class session
Week 1	Survival Dutch	Syllabus, presentaties	Les 1: Introductie
<i>te doen/to do</i>			les 1: Introductie
Week 2	Les 1: Introductie Les 2: Kennismaken	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 25-30	vb. blz. 31- 34,
Week 3	Les 3 : Onderweg	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken

		First class session	Second class session
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 39-44 TEST LES 1 EN 2	vb. blz. 44-49 (n°13)
Week 4	Les 3 : Onderweg	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 39-44	
Week 5	Les 4 : In een café	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		Lezen blz. 57-63 TEST LES 3	vb.blz. 63-66, 71-72
Week 6	Les 5: Een afspraak	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 75-80 TEST LES 4	vb. blz. 81-85
Week 7	MID TERM EXAMEN	Oefeningen, spreken	MID TERM LES 1-5
<i>te doen/to do</i>		vb. blz. 81-85	studeren!
Week 8	Les 6: Gefeliciteerd!	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 95-99	vb. blz.100-103
Week 9	Les 7: Winkelen	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 111-116	vb. blz.117-120
Week 10	Les 7: Winkelen	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica,	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 111-116	vb. blz.117-120
Week 11 8/11-12/11	Les 8: Wonen	Teksten, taalhelp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 127-133	vb.blz.133-137.

		First class session	Second class session
Week 12	Les 8: Wonen	Teksten, taalhulp, grammatica	Oefeningen, spreken
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 127-133 TEST LES 6 EN 7	
Week 13	Les 8: Wonen/ Les 9 : Een werkdag	Teksten, taalhulp, grammatica	Teksten, taalhulp, grammatica
<i>te doen/to do</i>		lezen blz. 127-133 lezen blz. 147-151	lezen blz. 127-133 lezen blz. 147-151
Week 14	Les 8: Wonen/ Les 9 : Een werkdag	Oefeningen, spreken	Mondeling examen- oral exam (presentatie)
<i>te doen/to do</i>		vb. blz. 152-157	vb. presentatie
Week 15	EXAMEN	studeren voor het examen	

Course Materials

Textbook and Audio recordings:

- 1) E.,Ham, W.H.T.M, Tersteeg, L. Zijlmans, *Kunt u mij helpen? Help 1, een cursus Nederlands voor anderstaligen*. NCB, Utrecht
+ Optional Hulpboek Engels (available at Vesalius College- Chris Janssens)
- 2) Course handouts available on Pointcarré.
- 3) Background reading : Flanders Today weekly. (free subscription : www.flanderstoday.eu)
- 4) Audio MP3 's made by the instructor with all the texts of the handbook (on Pointcarré)

Additional Readings:

If you are interested in politics and history, you can find some extra information in the following books. They can be found in the VUB or ULB library or in the National Belgian Library (the “ Albertina library” www.kbr.be, near the central station) If the book can be found in this library, the library code is also provided. (ALB)

1. Geert Van Istendael, *Le labyrinthe belge*, traduit du néerlandais par Monique Nagielkopf et Marnix Vincent, préface Jaques de Decker, Bordeaux, Le castor astral, 2004, 277 p. (bib. ULB)
2. Els Witte, Jan Craeybeckx, Alain Meynen, *Political history of Belgium from 1830 onwards*, Brussel, VUB University Press, Antwerpen, Standaard, 2000, 297 p. (bib ALB : A2000 5. 730)
3. Benno Barnard, Martine Van Berlo, Geert Van Istendael, *How can one not be interested in Belgian history? War, language and consensus in Belgium since 1830*. Gent, Academia Press, Dublin, Trinity College, 2005, 151p. (bib ALB A 2006 4.492 + Bib. VUB)
4. Els Witte, *Language and politics : The Belgian case study in a historical perspective* Bruxelles, VUB University Press, 1999, 239 p. (bib ULB + bib. VUB)
5. Richard Hill, *The Art of being Belgian, Brussels, Belgium and Beyond*, Europublications, Brussels, 2005, 208 p. (bib. ALB A 2007 5.551)
6. Harry Pearson, *A Tall Man in a Low Land, some time among the Belgians*, Abacus, London, 2002, 245 p. (ask the instructor)
7. Els Witte, Hugo Baetens Beardsmore, *The interdisciplinary study of urban bilingualism in Brussels*, Clevedon, Avon, England, 1987, 241 p. (bib ULB)
8. Arend Lijphart, *Conflict and coexistence in Belgium: the dynamics of a culturally divided society*, Berkeley, Institute of International Studies, University of California, 1981, 171 p.(bib ULB)

Useful Websites:

1. Flanders Today = www.flanderstoday.eu
2. Flanders News = <http://www.deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws.english>
3. Interglot Dictionary = www.interglot.com
4. A good wikipedia article on the history of the Dutch language :http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Dutch
5. Some more information about the history of the Netherlands :http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Netherlands
6. On beginning Dutch, some explanations can be found on <http://www.forbeginners.info/dutch/>
7. To practice verbs, go to:<http://www.verbos.eu/Dutch/>

Course Assessment

The students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance as follows:

Quizzes	25%	Announced quizzes
Oral Dutch produced in class	5%	
Dutch Project	10%	
Class participation	10%	Active contribution to the class. You've made your <i>voorbereiding</i> and you do your best to speak Dutch in class + physical attendance.
Mid term exam	20%	
Final exam	30%	25% written exam, 5% oral presentation.
Total	100%	

Grading Scale of Vesalius College

Vesalius College grading policy, in line with the Flemish Educational norms, is now as stated follows:

	%	On 20	
A	85-100	17-20	Excellent
A-	81-84	16,1-16,9	very good
B+	77-80	15,3-16,0	
B	73-76	14,5-15,2	good
B-	69-72	13,7-14,4	
C+	66-68	13,1-13,6	
C	62-65	12,3-13,0	satisfactory
C-	58-61	11,5-12,2	
D+	54-57	10,7-11,4	
D	50-53	10,0-10,6	pass
F	49 and below	below 10	fail

Your transcript will give you a letter grade. The exams receive a number with the equivalent letter grade, but the numbers are added in order to obtain the final letter grade. The numbers indicated hereafter come from the fact that Flemish universities must consider 50% as passing and, by a process of linear interpolation from the US 4-point GPA system, 85% and above is an A, and anything below 50% is an F. If you want to calculate the course grade you only need to multiply the numerical mark for each assignment and quiz/ exam by the percentage allocated to each different part of the course and then add the results.

Grades have a tendency to be lower in Europe than in the US. As stated above a B is good and a C is satisfactory. However, most Study Abroad students generally want, or are used to, higher grades. To let you in on the secret way to an A = work for it, work hard, and you'll be rewarded.

Further description of assessment activities and Grading Criteria

ASSESSMENT

1. De voorbereiding (or preparation)

Prep work will have to be done after and before each in class exercise session. This includes making exercises, preparing for the next session, making sure you understand the new grammatical material, repeating and studying the conversation explained in the previous class, learning your vocabulary, reading and preparing exercises for the next class, the set exercises will be corrected collectively in class, and thus your preparation will influence your class work and be reflected in your class participation grade. On the class calendar you can check what you need to prepare for each class session.

2. Dutch Project / Projectwerk

Is it a paper? Not really. It can be, but doesn't have to be.

There must be a reason why you chose this class. Maybe you have Dutch or Belgian ancestry as an American student. Or you need Dutch if you ever want to find a job as a Belgian student. Maybe you're just interested in Dutch because it's close to your German/Norwegian/Swedish/ Icelandic/ English..... mother tongue. I assume you are also interested in the contemporary culture of Dutch speaking regions in Europe. Your Dutch project builds on that interest.

I know that there are different types of students, and some of you might start getting wobbly legs when they hear the word "creativity". If you are one of those people, just do the following.

1. Write a short introduction in Dutch, presenting yourself and your chosen theme in 20 lines.
2. Write a short research based (which means you have to include your bibliography and reference your text) reflexion paper of a topic linked with the society/politics/culture/art/ of a Dutch speaking country. The topic needs to be approved by the Instructor.

Possible topics include:

- Social Security in Belgium, what are the challenges the system is facing in the 21st century?
- Art Nouveau souvenirs in Brussels.
- Religious groups vs the liberal culture in the Netherlands
- Nationalism in Flanders

...

Stay close to your personal interests and go looking for their counterparts here.

This paper needs to be 1500 words in Times New Roman, single space.

I am not fond of grammatical errors in English, especially not if it is your mother tongue!

3. Submit before 1 PM of the Thursday of Week 12. Staple it and hand it in at reception.

However if creativity doesn't give you wobbly legs, you may do the following:

1. Write a short introduction in Dutch, presenting yourself and your chosen theme/project in 20 lines.

2. Submit a

- blog with reflections about the Dutch language, the culture, arts, society, based on newspaper articles, travels, social media,...
- a culture diary
- a short film with interviews

The textual part of the creative project counts at least 3000 words.

3. Submit before 1 PM of the Thursday of Week 12. Visual representations on a DVD please.

3. Quizzes/ Toetsen

1. Announced quizzes will cover a limited amount of course material and are given at certain intervals, after each unit in the course book except for the first two chapters, to ensure every student is keeping up with the course work. No quizzes are given the week after break, for obvious reasons.

2. Mid term and final examinations will be given at set dates. The final examination will also include an oral part, a presentation given in the final week of class.

The most important element in this course is the individual progress of the students and the effort they put in towards learning Dutch. Students are entitled to make mistakes and learn from their mistakes, it's an essential part of language acquisition.

Additional Course Policies

1. Late submission policy

Missing the deadline of your project work = -20% of your grade per day late.. No exceptions will be made. If you are sick, notify the instructor as quickly as possible, and bring along a doctor's note when you come back to class. No doctor's note = still -20% per day.

2. Coming late to class

Try to be as punctual as possible. However, should you be late, please enter quietly without disrupting the class nor making too much noise. Just sit on the nearest chair available.

Students are not allowed to add this class later than before the first class of week 3, because otherwise the amount of knowledge they will have to catch up on will be too big.

3. Absence from class.

Attendance in class is compulsory and recorded at every class. If you are sick, warn the school and they will notify your teachers. You'll also have to bring a doctor's note when you return to school. If you miss class for any other reason, send an email to kcaenen@vub.ac.be, preferably in advance as to explain why you cannot attend class. It is your responsibility to keep up with the course work, and ask the necessary explanations if you don't understand. If you miss an announced quiz, please notify the instructor in advance and we'll set up an alternative. The instructor will assume that you take the initiative to catch up on what you have missed and ask for notes and explanations, including assignments, from your fellow students. The instructor is by no means obliged to go running after the students to inform them about things said in class while students were absent. Study abroad field excursions are no valid excuse for absence in class and will reflect on your class participation grade.

4. Behaviour in class

The following things are not allowed in class:

- Eating.
- Being impolite towards the instructor and fellow students.
- The use of a laptop computer, unless you have a documented learning disability that requires it.
- The use of a cell phone.

Academic Honesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is **NOT** tolerated in this course.

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity.

Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean for Students and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

If you refer to someone else's work, appropriate references and citations must be provided. Grammar, spelling and punctuation count, so use the tools necessary to correct before handing in assignments.

Study Guide

HOW TO GET A GOOD GRADE ?

A. On a weekly basis.

After each first class and before each second session you should do the following things to keep up with the course. Keep this order to organize your study session, it should take you up to two or two and a half hours.

- 1) Read, understand and translate the texts.
- 2) Study the vocabulary. You can use the vocabulary sheets provided in the handouts. Write them out several times, correct spelling is very important. You can use the Hulpboek Engels where you'll find all the vocabulary lists, according to the different lessons.
- 3) Repeat the text using the cd.
- 4) Study the Taalhulp. Make the taalhulp exercises, you need to prepare them for the next session.
- 5) Go over the new grammar. Make sure you understand. Extra explanations in English can be found in the course handouts and in the Hulpboek Engels. Study the grammar rules. Make the set grammar exercises,

After each second session and before the following week you should do the following things to keep up with the course. This should take you up to an hour or an hour and a half.

- 1) Make sure you have the correct answers of the exercises corrected in class. Correct your answers. If you have difficulties or fail to understand let the instructor know by email.
- 2) Repeat the vocabulary and the grammar you've studied so far. Make charts or revision cards.
- 3) Do the set reading for the Tuesday class, look up new words in the set texts.
- 4) Study for a test if there is one coming up. Check the class calendar.

B. After every unit

A test is organized after each lesson or two lessons, expect for lesson 5, this is included in the mid term examination This means that you have to study the following items:

- 1) All the new grammatical material from that lesson, but you also need to revise the grammar from previous units, for example the verbs.
- 2) All the new vocabulary from that lesson. You simply study the vocabulary list that you made or filled out in these handouts. Of course, you're not supposed to forget the vocabulary from previous lessons!
- 3) All the exercises from that unit. Remake them and correct them.
- 4) All conversation and cultural items presented, discussed or practised in class or during the practical assignment.

C. Twice a semester

A mid term examination is organized in week 7 and a final examination in week 15.