

EXAMPLE OF LANGUAGE & CULTURE COURSE AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY – COURSE DESCRIPTION

The courses are provided by the [Academic Language Centre](#)

Semi-intensive courses (starting in September and February, two lessons per week, usually in the evening):

DUTCH 1

Start dates	January, September (actual dates mentioned on the website)
Number of lessons	24 of approx. 2 hours (including breaks)
Entry level	0
Target level	A1
Language of instruction	Dutch and English
Preparation	Approx. 2 hours per lesson
Target group	(international) students, university staff and others
Course load	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The total hours of study for this course is 110 hours which is approx. 4-5 ECTS.•The course is finished by a test, for which you will obtain a grade.• Students will get a certificate of attendance if they have attended at least 80% of the course and can request for a "Declaration of the Studyload". These are provided by the Language Center.•The total lecture hours for Dutch 1 are 42 hours + 68 self-study hours.

This course covers all basic skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing, and particularly focuses on everyday language use. Other areas of focus are basic grammar and basic vocabulary of Dutch. During class, conversational skills are practiced by speaking with the entire group, with smaller groups, and by making use of the equipment available in the language laboratory. One lesson requires approximately two hours of preparation. Upon completion of this course, you are able to have a short conversation on everyday subjects such as where you live, where you are from, and family background. You are also able to understand notices and simple texts. The course is concluded with a final test and a certificate (minimum attendance 80%).

Course programme and enrolment

The Institutional Coordinator at the Host institution will submit the student's application / registration form to the [Academic Language Centre](#).

Target group and admission requirements

This course is intended for adults with higher levels of education, Leiden University students and staff members, as well as other interested parties who are unrelated to Leiden University. Knowledge of Dutch is not required for enrolment in this course, but basic knowledge of both English (at level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and Roman script is required. This is a fast-paced course. Students are expected to prepare each lesson and to actively participate in each class.

Course material

- Boer e.a., Nederlands in gang. Uitgeverij Coutinho. ISBN 9789046905609.
- Recommended for self-study: Loeffen e.a., Trefwoord 1, Nordhoff Uitgevers. ISBN 9789001140953.

The course material is not included in the registration fee. Course participants are required to purchase course materials themselves. It is available at most good [bookstores](#).

Other information

- The maximum number of participants for this course is 16.
- The course load is 110 hours. On request a Course load declaration form can be issued. The student should enquire with their department whether course participation can be converted into credits.
- The holiday periods can be found in the Academic Language Centre's academic calendar.

- If classes are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, they will be added at the end of the courses. Please take into account that courses may end later than scheduled.
- The course level is indicated with the help of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Level and admission

The course level is indicated with the help of the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#). For our courses, the A1 level is divided into level A1.1 and A1.2. In this course you will start working on the competences that belong to A1.

skills	starting level	target level
listening	0	A1.1
reading	0	A1.1
speaking production	0	A1.1
speaking interaction	0	A1.1
writing	0	A1.1

Enclosure: The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Level
A1 elementary
A2 elementary+
B1 intermediate
B2 upper-intermediate
C1 advanced
C2 proficiency

Introduction

Developed by the Council of Europe, [the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#) provides a practical tool for setting clear standards to be attained at successive stages of learning and for evaluating outcomes in an internationally comparable manner. The framework is increasingly used by language institutes to indicate course levels. It is also used on language certificates. The European levels of language proficiency are formulated as 'can do' statements. Each level indicates the language competence per skill (writing, listening etc). In addition to describing the level attained for the four common skills (speaking, listening, writing and reading), differing levels are indicated for specific skills such as pronunciation and presentation. More often than not, the language user's skills are not all at the same level. Many Dutch people, for example, can understand spoken German texts (level B1 or B2), but they have difficulty speaking and writing German (level A1 or A2).

Dialang

With European support a test programme has been developed to help people determine their level in a wide range of languages. The programme is available to everyone and can be downloaded from the [website](#).

Listening

- A1** I can recognise familiar words and very basic phrases about myself, my family and the immediate surroundings, when people speak slowly and clearly.
- A2** I can understand phrases and the most common vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment). I can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.
- B1** I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest, when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.
- B2** I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument, provided the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes. I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.
- C1** I can understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly. I can understand television programmes and films without too much effort.

- C2** I have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to familiarise myself with the accent.

Reading

- A1** I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example, on notices and posters, or in catalogues.
- A2** I can read very short, simple texts. I can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and I can understand short simple personal letters.
- B1** I can understand texts that consist mainly of much used everyday or job-related language. I can understand descriptions of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.
- B2** I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literary prose.
- C1** I can understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. I can understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to my field.
- C2** I can read with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract or structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works.

Spoken production

- A1** I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know.
- A2** I can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job.
- B1** I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.
- B2** I can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
- C1** I can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with appropriate conclusions.
- C2** I can present clear, smoothly flowing description or argument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

Spoken interaction

- A1** I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.

- A2** I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. I can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself.
- B1** I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).
- B2** I can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. I can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.
- C1** I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes. I can formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate my contribution skilfully to those of other speakers.
- C2** I can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. I can express myself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. If I do have a problem I can backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

Writing

- A1** I can write a short, simple postcard, for example, sending best wishes whilst on holiday. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example, my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.
- A2** I can write short, simple notes and messages. I can write a very simple personal letter, for example, thanking someone for something.
- B1** I can write a simple connected text on topics which are familiar, or of personal interest to me. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.
- B2** I can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. I can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.
- C1** I can express myself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length. I can write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues. I can select a style appropriate to the reader in mind.
- C2** I can write clear, smoothly flowing text in an appropriate style. I can write complex letters, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. I can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.