



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Foreign Language (Dutch) I/IV Užsienio kalba (nyderlandų) I/IV	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Lect. Richard Udes	Faculty of Philology, Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic Centre for Scandinavian Studies

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
BA program	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Seminars	Autumn semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: –	Additional requirements (if any): –

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5 ECTS	136 hours	64	72

Purpose of the course unit
<p>This course offers an introduction to the Dutch language, designed for students of all disciplines at Vilnius University. Over the course of one semester, students will develop fundamental communication skills in Dutch, focusing on speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The course will also provide insights into Dutch and Flemish culture, fostering a deeper understanding of the language in its social and historical context.</p> <p>Through interactive classes held twice a week, students will engage in practical language exercises, dialogues, and multimedia resources to enhance their proficiency. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required, making this course ideal for beginners. By the end of the semester, students will be able to hold basic conversations, understand simple texts, and navigate everyday situations in Dutch-speaking environments.</p> <p>This course is open to all university students with an interest in languages and cultural exploration.</p>

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<p>By the end of the course, students will have developed basic proficiency in Dutch, approaching A1+ level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Specifically, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listening Comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand familiar words and basic phrases related to everyday life (e.g., personal information, shopping, local geography). ○ Recognize key points in slow and clear speech about familiar topics. 2. Speaking (Interaction & Production) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engage in simple conversations about everyday situations, asking and answering questions about personal details, hobbies, and daily activities. ○ Use basic structures to express needs, preferences, and opinions in a limited range of contexts. 3. Reading Comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand short, simple texts such as announcements, emails, menus, and basic informational materials. ○ Identify key details in familiar written materials with predictable content. 	<p>This course employs a communicative and interactive approach to language learning, ensuring that students actively engage with Dutch in real-life contexts. The following methods will be used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interactive Lectures & Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explanation of key grammar and vocabulary with practical examples. 2. Task-Based Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role-playing everyday situations (introductions, shopping, ordering food). ○ Problem-solving activities requiring Dutch-language interaction. 3. Listening and Pronunciation Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audio materials (dialogues, video clips) to improve comprehension. ○ Pronunciation exercises focusing on Dutch phonetics and intonation. 4. Reading and Writing Exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short texts, dialogues, and cultural articles for comprehension practice. 	<p>The course follows an accumulative assessment approach, ensuring continuous engagement and skill development throughout the semester. The final grade is based on two components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class Participation (20%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular attendance and active participation in classroom activities. 2. Midterm Written and Spoken Exam (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Written Exam (Grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and short writing tasks). ○ Spoken Exam (Basic conversation, role-play, or an oral presentation). 3. Final Written and Spoken Exam (50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Written Exam (Grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and short writing tasks). ○ Spoken Exam (Basic conversation, role-play, or an oral presentation).

<p>4. Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write short personal messages, simple notes, and brief descriptions about familiar topics (e.g., introducing oneself, describing daily routines). ○ Fill in basic forms with personal details and compose simple sentences with basic grammatical accuracy. <p>5. Grammar & Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use essential Dutch grammar structures, including present tense verbs, modal verbs, and present perfect constructions. ○ Recognize and apply core vocabulary related to personal life, travel, shopping, and common social interactions. <p>6. Cultural Competence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate awareness of Dutch and Flemish cultural norms, traditions, and everyday communication styles. ○ Understand basic differences between the Dutch-speaking regions. <p>This course provides a strong foundation for further Dutch language learning, preparing students for progression towards full A2-level proficiency in subsequent studies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Writing tasks such as personal emails, descriptions, and short narratives. <p>5. Pair and Group Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborative activities to practice dialogues and grammar structures. ○ Peer feedback on speaking and writing assignments. <p>6. Assessment for Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constructive feedback on speaking and writing tasks. <p>Students are encouraged to actively participate in class, engage with Dutch outside of lessons, and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts to maximize learning outcomes.</p>	
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Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshop	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn how to introduce yourself and others, ask basic questions, and fill out forms. Grammar focus: subject pronouns, present tense constructions. Cultural insight: addresses and phone numbers in the Netherlands. 			8				8	8	Various vocabulary and grammar exercises which will be handed out in class.
2. Time, Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice telling time, scheduling meetings, reading timetables, and wishing someone a happy birthday. Grammar focus: question words, basic punctuation. Cultural insight: Dutch punctuality and birthday traditions. 			8				8	8	
3. Food, Drinks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express your food and drink preferences, do the groceries, and order at a café or bar. Grammar focus: closed questions, articles, negation. Cultural insight: Dutch mealtimes and international cuisines in the Netherlands. 			8				8	8	
4. Home, Furniture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe your living space, interpret rental listings, give opinions on furniture, and learn to apologize. 			8				8	8	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar focus: plural forms, possessive pronouns, ordinal numbers, adjectives. • Cultural insight: housing and living arrangements in the Netherlands. 								
5. Directions, Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for and give directions, navigate public transport. • Grammar focus: object pronouns, modal verbs, subject-verb inversion. • Cultural insight: Dutch travel habits and bicycle culture. 			8				8	8
6. Clothing, Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe people's clothing and appearance, return items, give compliments. • Grammar focus: demonstratives, comparatives and superlatives, present perfect constructions. 			8				8	8
7. Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make plans, order at restaurants, extend invitations, discuss amusement parks. • Grammar focus: noun-pronoun agreement, negative sentence structure, spelling rules. • Cultural insight: Dutch drinking culture and festive celebrations. 			8				8	8
8. Exam Preparation			8				8	16
Total:			64				64	72

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Accumulative evaluation			The final grade for the course is based on continuous assessment and a final test, ensuring students actively engage with the language throughout the semester. The grading components are as follows:
Active Participation in Seminars	20%	During the course	Assessed throughout the semester. Students are required to regularly attend classes and actively participate in classroom activities. Grading scale: 0 to 10 points.

Midterm Test (Written and Oral)	30%	Middle of the semester	<p>Conducted in the middle of the semester.</p> <p>Assesses students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.</p> <p>The written component includes grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension tasks, while the oral component evaluates pronunciation, fluency, and communication abilities.</p> <p>Grading scale: 0 to 10 points.</p>
Final Test (Written and Oral)	50%	End of the semester	<p>Conducted at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Assesses students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.</p> <p>The written component includes grammar, vocabulary, and comprehension tasks, while the oral component evaluates pronunciation, fluency, and communication abilities.</p> <p>Grading scale: 0 to 10 points.</p>

Values of the ten-point grading scale

10 (Excellent) Excellent, exceptional knowledge and skills. The level of evaluation. 95–100 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

9 (Very good) Sound, good knowledge and skills. The level of synthesis. 85–94 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

8 (Good) Better than average knowledge and skills. The level of analysis. 75–84 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

7 (Average) Average knowledge and skills, there are minor mistakes. The level of knowledge application. 65–74 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

6 (Satisfactory) Knowledge and skills are worse than average. The level of knowledge and comprehension. 55–64 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

5 (Weak) Knowledge and skills meet the minimum requirements. The level of knowledge and comprehension. 51–54 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

4 (Insufficient) The minimum requirements are not met. 39–50 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

3 (Insufficient) The minimum requirements are not met. 26–38 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

2 (Insufficient) The minimum requirements are not met. 13–25 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

1 (Insufficient) The minimum requirements are not met. 1–12 % of the set study goals have been achieved.

IMPORTANT! Attendance Policy

Attendance is **compulsory** for this course. Students who miss **more than 30% of the seminars** without a **valid reason** (such as medical or other officially documented circumstances) will **not be allowed to take the final exam** and will receive a **failing grade** for the course. Regular participation is essential for successful language acquisition and overall course progression.

Course literature

Author (-s)	Publis hing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Compulsory literature				
Nicky Heijne (et al.)	2018	Code+, Deel 1		ThiemeMeulenhoff, Amersfoort
Additional literature				
Bieneke Berendsen	2020	Online Dutch Grammar Tutorial		www.dutchgrammar.com
Henry R. Stern	2000	Essential Dutch Grammar: All the Grammar Really Needed for Speech and Comprehension		Dover Publications Inc.
Henry R. Stern	1979	201 Dutch Verbs: Fully Conjugated in All the Tenses		Barrons Educational Series

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