VirtualDutch: Open Educational Resources and Distance Learning in a Lesser Taught Language Community

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Some facts about Dutch

- A medium-sized European language
- Spoken by >23 million speakers as native language
- The language of two neighbouring countries of the UK
- One of the official languages in Suriname
- The closest related language to English
Dutch Provision in UK Higher Education

- Four universities that teach Dutch to degree level
- One Dutch department, three programmes in departments of Germanic or modern languages,
- Before 2005 also U of Hull
- Growing interest outside of universities
‘VirtualDutch’ – Aims and Objectives

• Inter-institutional collaborative teaching and learning programme
• Creating shared teaching and learning resources
• Collaboration in teaching and learning
• Facilitated by technology
• Community of Practice
• Started in 2001
Declining interest in modern languages in the UK
Particularly affecting the lesser taught languages
Diminishing Resources and threats of discontinuation of language programmes
Both need and opportunity to develop ICT-based teaching and learning resources
Pooling of resources and expertise
And last but certainly not least: Student benefits
Virtual Department of Dutch: Subprojects

- Dutch Multimedia Study Packs
- Inter-institutional Collaborative Teaching Projects using VLEs and videoconferencing
- Online Language Courses Lagelands & Hogelands
- Learner’s Grammars for Beginners & Intermediates
- Open Learning Community Portal
Dutch Study Packs

- Some 30 interactive multimedia study packs,
- on aspects of Dutch and Flemish language, literature, history and society,
- for self-study, classroom use and remedial learning,
- catering for various levels of competence.
Virtual Dutch Community Portal

LEARN DUTCH ONLINE

Virtual Dutch is an inter-university teaching and learning initiative in Dutch Studies, involving four British universities: University College London (UCL), the University of Sheffield, the University of Cambridge and the University of Nottingham. Our aim is the advancement of Dutch Studies in the English-speaking world, especially through online learning and collaborative teaching. Most of our online learning materials are freely available. Just click on the links in the menu on the left.

DISTANCE LEARNING: SHORT LANGUAGE COURSES
- Introduction
- Lowlands
- Beginners Dutch
- Highlands
- Advanced Dutch

DISTANCE LEARNING: DEGREE PROGRAMMES
- Introduction
- Postgraduate Certificate
- Dutch Cultural Studies

- Postgraduate Diploma
- Dutch Cultural Studies
- MA Dutch Cultural Studies

DUTCH REFERENCE GRAMMARS
- Beginners
- Advanced

SELF-ACCESS COURSES

SELF STUDY PACKS

CHECKLISTS

Try Dutch!
Interested in learning Dutch? Not sure whether it is for you? Why not try our Dutch
Integrated teaching and learning resources

Studies in English on Dutch history and literature: 14 results
- Bakker, Gerrit L. (1990), Max Havelaar: a romantic novel for social fiction, ed.) The Low Countries: multidisciplinary studies, Lanham, MD.
- King, Peter (1978), Godiva and Multatuli: a question of literature.
- King, Peter (1972), Multatuli, New York, NY.
- King, Peter (1987), Multatuli’s Max Havelaar, fact and fiction, Hull.

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English Translations of Dutch literature: 9 results

News Headlines and Podcasts: 1 results
- Woutertje heeft meer
  November 30, 1999, 12:00 am GMT - Nederlandse tijdschriften, De Groene Amsterdammer
  Multatuli’s Wouterge Piterier is bekend als een bekend literair boek en is in beeld gebracht door Jan Kruis.[Original in Dutch]

English Translations of Dutch literature: 9 results
Collaborative Teaching: Advanced Translation & Cultural Studies

• Writer in Residence
• Communication via Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle)
• and Video Conferences (AccessGrid)
Open Learning Environment in Early Modern Low Countries history (OER Dutch history)

A VirtualDutch Open Educational Resource funded by JISC and the HE Academy

The project will

- turn a comprehensive survey course in early modern Low Countries history into a multimedia and Web 2.0 enriched Open Educational Resource (OER).
- specifically focus on relations between the Low Countries and the Anglophone world.
- will use freely available Web 2.0 tools and services and be based on open and transferable standards (e.g. SCORM) which can be delivered by a variety of platforms and Virtual Learning Environments.
- combine a series of multimedia teaching and learning objects like the interactive multimedia timeline in an integrated resource-rich but directed open learning environment.
OER Dutch history: deliverables

1. A transferable learning package (in SCORM format) based on the teaching and learning materials of a face-to-face course on Low Countries history,

2. an interactive and illustrated multimedia timeline on Anglo-Dutch relations from antiquity to 1830 using MIT’s Simile technology (Web 2.0),

3. technologically updated versions of existing self-directed study packs (including revision of structure and contents for the purpose of the integrated Open Learning environment),

4. a reading skills course in 17th century Dutch,

5. an open learning environment on the basis of the VLE Moodle, integrating all deliverables.
## Timeline of Cross-Channel Interactions

### 50 BC – 1830

- **Based on a comprehensive manuscript by Jaap Harskamp**
- **Comprises more than 800 extensively annotated entries on Anglo-Dutch exchanges**
- **Illustrated (IPR permitting)**
- **Using MIT's Simile timeline technology (Web 2.0)**
Reading Course Early Modern Dutch

Unit 1: Willem Lodewycksz, Historie van Indien (1598)

In Unit 1 you read a short, adapted and modernised (i.e. grammar, syntax and spelling have been modernised) fragment from Willem Lodewycksz’ Historie van Indien (1598). The Historie van Indien (History of India) is a travel journal, describing the first Dutch voyage to Southeast Asia (1595-97). The journal not only recounts the actual voyage, but also offers extensive information about Asian trade and indigenous products. Lodewycksz’ work is of importance for students of Dutch colonial and economic history.

Travel journals, written in simple and clear prose, are a good starting point for this course. The texts do not need to be adapted and simplified too much to be readable by beginner learners of Dutch. In Unit 5 we read a fragment from another travel journal, Willem Usbrantsz Bontekoe’s Journal ofte gedenckwaerdige beschrijvinghe vande Oost-Indische reyse...
The next step: distance programme

- UCL programme, with teaching input from Sheffield
  - Envisaged to become a fully inter-institutional degree programme
- Using *VirtualDutch* Open Educational Resources,
- Institutional Virtual Learning Environment,
- Desktop Videoconferencing.
- Tutor-supported.
Distance programme (since 2009/10)

- **Short courses**
  - Beginners Dutch ‘Lagelands’ (started Sept 2009)
  - Advanced Dutch ‘Hogelands’ (started Sept 2009)
  - Early Modern Dutch (starts Sept 2010)
  - Business Dutch (starts Sept 2010)

- **PgCert / PgDipl / MA Dutch Cultural Studies**
  - Postgraduate Certificate (started Sept 2009)
  - Postgraduate Diploma (starts Sept 2010)
  - MA Dutch Cultural Studies (starts Sept 2011)
Short courses: e.g. Beginners Dutch

- Lagelands Beginners Dutch
  - provides learners with the skills they need to speak, write and understand simple Dutch in a range of everyday contexts,
  - requires no prior knowledge of the language,
  - outcome of a level comparable to A2 as defined by the Council of Europe,
  - runs twice per year, taught over a 16 weeks period,
  - the language of instruction is English.
PgCert / PgDipl / MA
Dutch Cultural Studies

• Opportunity to study the modern society of the Netherlands and Flanders,
• teaching staff are drawn from UCL and Sheffield,
• taught in English; available to students without previous knowledge of Dutch as well as to those already proficient in the language,
• learning Dutch, or improving one’s command of it, part of the programme.
• Students take a core course on the contemporary society and culture of the Low Countries, and either one or two optional courses,
• all courses are fully tutor-supported,
• some scholarships available,
• leads to a fully recognized qualification from UCL.
Some Screenshots

DUTGD01 Certificate in Dutch Cultural Studies (block 2)

Gender and new belongings in the Netherlands

Jane Fenouilhet (j.fenouilhet@ucl.ac.uk)

4. Gender and new belongings 1970-present

In the second half of this block we will look at the new ways in which different groups are able to participate in Dutch society.

- While Dutch and Flemish women have more of a say in the family and begin to participate in public life, some aspects of their lives are slow to change.
- There is growing acceptance of homosexual men and women and their lifestyles. Same-sex marriage becomes legal.
- Cultural clashes focus on the treatment of women in Islam; the concept of new cultural citizens offers a way forward.

Resources

- 'The personal and the political' - Fenouilhet on the second wave of feminism
- Link to Amsterdam 'Hommomorument' website
- Poems by Elly de Waard
- 'Submission' - film by Ayaaq Hirsli Ali and Thea van Gogh
- Scheila Nassiri, 'New cultural citizens'

Online webinar via DimDim, 19/11/09, 11:00 BST

You can join the seminar by clicking on the link in the invitation e-mail or by entering 'virtual/dutch' into the meeting room field on http://www.dimdim.com.
Some concluding remarks

- In 2009/10 twelve students followed the postgraduate certificate, about 20 the short courses
- Short courses can be accredited towards the degree programme
- Feedback overwhelmingly positive
- Majority of learning resources openly available
- Community aspects: staff/students
- Collaboration way forward for LWT languages?
Thank you very much!

- **VirtualDutch**
  <http://www.ducth.ac.uk/>
- **Open Learning Environment Early Modern Low Countries history (OER Dutch history)**
  <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dutch/OER/>
- **Contact: Ulrich Tiedau**
  E-mail: u.tiedau@ucl.ac.uk