



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Dyslexia

Course Code	L_WABACIW307
Credits	6
Period	P4
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Examiner	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Teaching Staff	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

Knowledge and insight:

To gain knowledge and insight in the field of spelling and reading disorders, also known as dyslexia. We will study the possible causes and the symptoms of dyslexia. We will also go into features of both technical reading and reading comprehension. In addition to that, we will study screening materials and treatment methods for children with dyslexia.

Skills:

- critical analysis of treatment methods;
- making error analyses of written materials (dictations, stories, or exams) of children with dyslexia;
- performing a dyslexia screening;
- oral presentation skills;
- giving peer feedback.

Course Content

About 7% of all people in the world have dyslexia. These people have trouble learning how to read and write. Many different treatment methods (some more effective than others) have been developed over the last decades. Treatment helps people with dyslexia to better understand the orthography of their own language and how to strategically put that knowledge to use, while reading or writing. However, dyslexia cannot be cured, so it will affect their lives, whether it concerns a child going to school or an adult working in a professional setting.

We will study literature about the assumed causes of dyslexia and the (linguistic) theories that aim at confirming these assumptions. We will also study the Dutch educational system and the ways in which it has incorporated structural measures to identify dyslexia markers in children as early as possible. Besides that, we will study screening materials, the phases of the diagnostic process, and treatment methods. We will analyse written data from children with dyslexia. During the second half of the course, students will give a presentation (individual or in small groups) about a topic that was not yet (elaborately) treated in class.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lectures and seminars (2 x 2 hours per week).

Method of Assessment

Written exam (80% of the final grade) and four written assignments (together 20% of the final grade). A low grade for one assignment (but not lower than 5) can be compensated with a high grade for another assignment. Both the average of the assignments and the exam grade have to be at least 5.5. Students must have handed in all assignments and must have given their presentation before they are allowed to take part in the exam.

Entry Requirements

Students must have passed the course First Language Acquisition and Language Impairment (L_AABACIW111).

Literature

Reading materials will be announced in the Course Manual (available before the beginning of the course, on Canvas).

Additional Information Target Audience

BA3 students in Communication and Information Studies, specialisation Language and Mind. Pre-master's students preparing for the Master's program *Educatie in de Taal- en Cultuurwetenschappen*.