



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](#).

Language Change

Course Code	L_ETBACIW303
Credits	6
Period	P4
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Examiner	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Teaching Staff	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Teaching method(s)	Seminar

Course Objective

After following this course, you have insight into the main mechanisms of language change in English and can name some common causes for language change. You can explain arguments and counterarguments in the debate on whether language change is good or bad.

Course Content

Because awesome. Instagrammable. Mood. Language changes constantly. This is most obvious in changes in the meaning of words, but grammatical structures and pronunciation change too. A particularly interesting aspect of language change is that people often have very strong opinions about it, especially those trying to stop language from changing. But as we will see in the course, language change is a natural phenomenon, present in all stages of languages. In this course, we will go through different aspects of language – e.g. syntax, vocabulary, phonology, morphology – and discuss the types of changes that have occurred in each particular area. In the course, we will focus on changes in English, but we will also draw some parallels with mechanisms and types of changes in other languages.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Tutorials.

Method of Assessment

Oral exam (50%) and written paper (50%).

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is aimed at third-year students doing the CIS track English Language and Communication Studies.

If you're considering taking this course as an elective, please contact the course coordinator before registering to check that you have the relevant background knowledge to take this course.

Recommended background knowledge

Students must have passed all courses of the second year.

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