



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](#).

The Structures of English

Course Code	L_AABACIW112
Credits	6
Period	P5+6
Course Level	100
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, Lecture

Course Objective

After successfully completing this course, you will have insight into the basic principles of syntactic and morphological analysis; you will have an understanding of the internal structure of clauses and phrases in the English sentence; and you will know the most important processes of word formation in English. You will also be able to model these structures using phrase markers and can apply the insights gained in the course to analyse a linguistic phenomenon.

Course Content

This course provides an introduction into the syntactic and morphological structures of English and aims to answer the question what the principles are that form the basis for English words and sentences. In the syntax component, we will discuss the most important principles of syntactic analysis, analyse the structure of phrases and sentences, and will model these structures using phrase markers. We will focus on the structure of the noun phrase, on verb complementation patterns, and on the structure of complex sentences. In the morphology component, we will cover the most important processes of word formation in English: inflection, derivation, and compounding. While the grammar course in period 2 (Academic English CIS-L&S: Grammar) focuses on correct production of English grammar, this course focuses on understanding the underlying principles.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Periods 5 and 6: one two-hour lecture and one two-hour seminar per week.

Method of Assessment

The final grade will be based on two exams (both 30%) and a paper (40%). In order to pass the course, you need a 5.5 minimum for each component.

Entry Requirements

Students must have participated in Academic English CIS-L&S Grammar (L_EABAALG103).

Literature

Noel-Burton Roberts (2021). *Analysing Sentences: An Introduction to English Syntax*. Fifth edition. London/New York: Routledge. It's important that you have this fifth edition, not an earlier one.

Additional Information Target Audience

First-year students of Communication and Information Studies, in particular those doing the specialisations 'English Language and Communication Studies' and 'Language and Mind'.

Additional Information

Attendance is obligatory (80% minimum). If you miss more classes, you may still be allowed to finish the course if you submit an alternative assignment, but only if you've attended 70% of the classes.

Recommended background knowledge

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